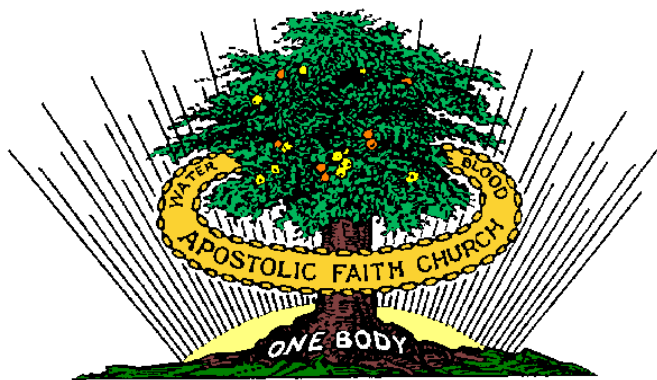


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Showers of Blessing

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Bring Forth The New

It is written that "Unto Him Shall the gathering of the people be" (Gen. 49:10). Where people become built-up into "this Faith", they are, without realising it, being gathered unto Him who is the Word. Such is the Apostolic way!

What now is it that we need from the new King, and what do we hope for by looking unto Him in the way of this Faith, once delivered to Pastor Hutchinson: and what precisely are we to carry forward in this work?

We are persuaded that in this Faith is contained the word of peace, progress and judgement unto truth for the earth. This has to be brought forth, for it cannot come forth of itself. So our Apostolic Faith has to be activated to draw forth this Word. Obviously, it is according to what is perceived in this "Word" that one is able to bring forth in birth, if we travail enough.

How open is the vision though in these days, or how dim has it become? It is good to take stock at the year's end. In running the measuring rod over ourselves, we may perhaps detect where we come short. Admittedly, it is not easy to maintain a constant vigil upon the walls of our New Jerusalem home. If we are surfeited and over-burdened with the cares of this world, we may, when we should be on the watch, gradually fall asleep.

None is perfect. The spirit may be willing, but the natural mind - not being subjected to the law of God - may take ever more and more; so that we become distanced from that which was once delivered. Paul wrote to the Philippians that he could only send Timothy, for he had no man likeminded, who would naturally care for their state. All others were seeking their own interests, and not the things which were of Jesus Christ's. One concludes that the place where Paul was ministering then, a considerable erosion had taken place, and much of the original anointing which came forth in the Upper Room at Jerusalem, had dried up!

At the Church's beginning, the zeal for developing the new dispensation of the Gospel of the Kingdom - the Lord working with them in the power of the Word - was such, that it turned upside down the whole area around the Eastern Mediterranean. It was the readiness of the disciples in those days, to leave their all to follow the way the Word directed, that enabled them to rearrange their lives, and make whatever sacrifices were necessary, in order that they might tarry in Jerusalem. The cost they counted not, but did it in an attitude of obedience.

How indebted the whole world is to the sheer dedication of those one-hundred and twenty souls who continued in prayer and supplication, for ten days, before they were endowed with power. They could not have known what form this would take. They may have been somewhat apprehensive, wondering how this new manifestation of power should come to them. As the world can be awe-inspired by lightning, those who were inspired to be so intrepid as to search for ways to harness electrical energy, must have been more than a little afraid of what they were seeking to handle.

Likewise, those who had witnessed some of the miracles of the Lord - who is the Word of the Father - were also possessed of a pioneering spirit. They wished to learn and seek to experience the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, which was with them in our Lord, to now come back to them in another form.

One can imagine how astounded they must have been at the form the outpouring of the power of the Holy Spirit took, when they found themselves speaking in new languages which they had never learned, in a manifestation so great, that the Spirit appeared in cloven tongues of flame, sitting upon each one of them.

The release of this heavenly power has had a cleansing and purifying effect upon society, and greatly worked as a civilising influence. The Holy Spirit of God is transforming and refining with its power wherever it is allowed to move and touch.

The anointing that descended upon this work in the early days was obtained because it was deliberately sought after. Over a period of time, several further anointings were given as the vision was accepted. As it was believed, so the Spirit was able to quicken those who were seeing further into God's Plan.

For its implementation, power was given, and much was wrought for the healing of the nations. However, the measure of anointing and the understanding attained requires constant attention, so that it may be both maintained and further advanced.

The adversary will always try and divert us from being dedicated to the vision's outworking, and to forget our former earnestness; so that its clarity fades from sight. Our foe is subtle, and works in a manner that we may fail to notice how we can be changed into a condition we did not intend for ourselves. Temptations drawing us from the narrow way, can come without our realising that it is temptation. Even a developing casualness can slide us off the altar without our feeling any bump or concern.

To fight the good fight of Apostolic Faith needs, in particular, more than ordinary exertion, because it is a "new thing" that has been delivered. We have no comparisons with other Christian works to serve as examples.

The Apostolic revelation of this latter day differs from that established in the early Church, because of the nature of the work to be carried out. The former work consisted of building up the cannon of Scripture, together with the demonstration of the power of God; that through this witness going to all the world, God could gradually pick out a people for His Name, with whom to make up the Body of Christ, which is His Church. We must understand that most of the chosen ones have now gone beyond the veil, and as overcomers, comprise of the spirits of just men and women made perfect. These the Lord brings with Him at His Second Presence, during the end of the age.

Article written by the late Pastor R. Pain, first published in Showers number 3578, 22/12/83.

