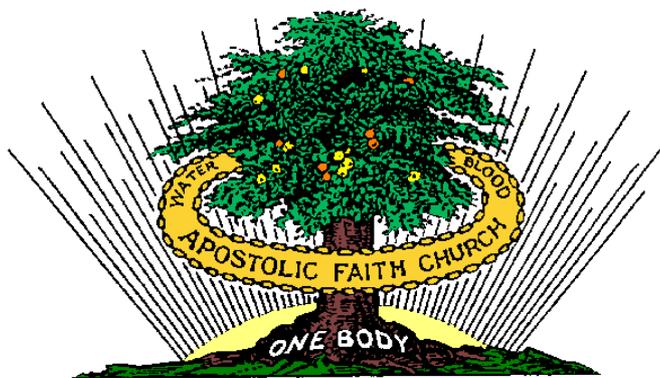


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Showers of Blessing

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The Pentecostal Rays

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

Here is recorded in Scripture how the great day of Pentecost came, and with it the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It commenced in a humble upper room, with the ordinary people, and not in the grand Temple where the priests worshipped. They remained in the confines of the Old Covenant, whilst the worshippers in the upper room rejoiced in experiencing the reality of Pentecost.

The Scripture quite clearly tells us that the Holy Spirit had not been given to the disciples during the Lord's ministry with them, but that the Holy Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost, after the resurrection. From what is recorded in Scripture we may conclude that what the disciples experienced on that Day was the “gift” of the Holy Spirit. We read, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit with power at Pentecost, was witnessed in the early days of the Root Church here in Winton, and brought many stalwart Christians to the knowledge of Spiritual Gifts, revealed by God, through the conviction of His obedient servant, William Oliver Hutchinson. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the operation of Spiritual Gifts, as revealed in the Scripture, (1 Corinthians 12:1-12) became the firm grounding and starting point in the ministry of many men who became significant leaders in Christendom.

We read ‘a note’ written by Pastor Hutchinson, preceding the introduction to the book “The Word of God Coming Again” which gives us an immediate insight to how his spirit was led by the Lord in the early days. It is dated, 2nd June, 1919 and we quote:

By the grace of God, it has been my lot in these last days to stand in Christ Jesus the Lord, in the great hope of seeing His Glory shed forth over the earth. This can be done only by our coming in contact with the Holy Spirit in a special manner, for it shall glorify Jesus Christ, according to the Word spoken aforetime. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. The Lord has cleansed away the sin by His shed Blood; now it lies with the saints to reach the place where the Holy Spirit has been pleased to manifest the gifts which He has for the Church, in such a fashion as to give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and speech to the dumb, and in the healing of all manner of diseases, and in the raising of the dead; for it was in these kind of things that He was glorified when in his own flesh, including the making of water into wine.

This same Lord and Christ lives within us, and these deeds should and shall now be

manifest in us, the Church, by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Thankful am I that the Holy Spirit has seen fit to come to us as a people with part of the gifts, and to put them into operation. His Word spoken is sweet indeed, yea, food and life. If there are counterfeits as people declare, then there must be the real; it is for us to find the real. Moses' rod (serpent) swallowed up the serpents of the magicians in Egypt, so I believe this rod (manifestation of the Spirit) of today will swallow up all "isms."

Let the same voice be heard today as in John's day: "Make straight the way of the Lord." Christ "the Word" dwells within us, and we ought to behold His glory, as they did in the beginning, for we read – John 1:14, "We beheld His glory"; John 2:11, "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory"; John 11:40, "Jesus said unto her, "Said I not unto thee that if thou would believe, thou should see the glory of God?"" We have passed from death unto life (John 5:24), and have become sons of God. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:2). Great things will take place at the manifestation of the sons of God. We are now waiting for their manifestation.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba father. The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14–19).

There is a great need for both Christians and the Church in general, to seek after and receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, with power, in order to counteract the awful unbelief, worldliness and modernistic teaching found in some aspects of the Church today; for instance, the tolerance of homosexuality in the priesthood, and the watering down of the sanctity of marriage.

The following extract is taken from the comments made by the Late Rev. John Brown, Minister of the Gospel at Haddington, who died 19th June 1787: "Alas, how perversely men will continue opposing and reviling the most evident manifestations of God's power and goodness until the Holy Spirit begins to work in their hearts! But then the most wonderful effects will follow – the deepest impressions of divine truths – a thorough conviction and self-debasement – earnest inquiries after salvation – the most unfeigned faith and sincere repentance – dedication of men's riches and their children to the Lord – faithful subjection to Christ and to His gospel – joining in religious fellowship with His people – an observation of His commandments – delightful and reverential regard to His ordinances – grateful praise for His kindness and zeal for His glory – heavenly mindedness, contempt of this world, and compassionate love to poor fellow-saints – and a daily addition of members to the Church."

It is the same today, as it was in the former days with the Apostles, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and speaking divers languages, they were admired by some, and derided by others. So it is for all who desire to walk closely with the Lord, to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which has still to be prayerfully and diligently sought. The freely given gifts of the Holy Spirit must always be properly exercised with wisdom and care, never allowing any Gift bestowed by the Spirit from God to be abused or brought into disrepute. It is then that the miracle power of God - through His Word - spoken under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, being brought to bear upon that to which it has been directed – will accomplish the Work to which it has been sent, be it healing, anointing or blessing, and that at all times it must promote Christ's honour and glory, and not that of any man.

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