

## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND POWER.

(The conditions upon which we may obtain the power promised by the Saviour to the Disciples has been a matter of controversy in the Christian Church ever since the sorcerer, Simon Magus, attempted to buy the Holy Ghost with money. There arise occasionally some questions regarding the operations of the Holy Spirit in the children of God that ought to be answered. In an editorial by the late Rev. A. T. Jennings, October 18th, 1911, some of these questions are answered in so satisfactory a manner that we reproduce the article here for the benefit of those who may be benefitted in this question of vital importance.)—Editor.

In a moral sense sin and impurity, or moral corruption, and moral weakness are always related to each other as cause and effect. On the other hand, moral purity and moral or spiritual power are also connected as cause and effect. He who is morally sinful and corrupt is also morally weak; and he who is morally and spiritually pure possesses moral and spiritual power.

It should be seen from the statement already made that the divine process involves first purity, then empowerment, for the Holy Spirit will not dwell in an unclean place, and since the power of God cannot be separated from God, the human heart, which is the seat of power, must be made a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. To claim power and at the same time confess to impurity is a contradiction of facts. These two parts, purity and empowerment, are never separated. The full cleansing of the human heart from original corruption is accomplished only by the incoming of the Holy Spirit, which is termed in the Bible the Baptism with the Holy Ghost. A great deal of confusion arises from making false comparisons. Because the Bible speaks of being filled with the Spirit, the Spirit being poured out, and His indwelling, and several other similar expressions, we have come to think of the human heart as being like a material vessel, and it is easy to affirm that if the Holy Spirit will not dwell in an unclean place we must have our hearts made clean before we can expect Him to come in to abide. This materialistic view of our own condition and that of the Holy Spirit is almost wholly misleading. We are really talking about a life and not a material thing. That which is within a regenerated heart and must be cleansed away before the Holy Spirit will take up His abode in the heart is not material corruption, neither is the heart in which the corruption exists a material heart or substance. If we would always keep our minds definitely fixed upon the fact that we are dealing with persons and not with things, we would find much better light.

We do not think that the corruption in the human heart, sometimes called inbred sin, is a second person, or an identity, but it is a quality of nature which needs to be cleansed away; but this cleansing is never accomplished by impersonal things. If we have a garment that is unclean and it is washed until it becomes clean, at least two factors must be applied to the garment in order to make it clean: First, water must be used, which is a solvent of

dirt, and by dissolving the dirt in the garment removes it. Second, some person or intelligent being must apply the water. The water will never apply itself to the garment, neither will the garment apply itself to the water. In the cleansing of corrupt human hearts there is also the cleansing element, and the power that applies the element. The cleansing element is the blood of Jesus Christ; the power who applies the blood is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not stand on the outside and command the heart to be clean, but He enters and applies the blood, the cleansing element, and thus makes the heart clean. It will be seen, then, that no heart is made clean until the Holy Spirit enters and cleanses it. This will be made still more clear by noting that the blood of Jesus stands for His life; and that the cleansing element is not merely an inanimate and impersonal substance, but is the life of Jesus Christ. It is very much as if the corrupt blood of the body of a man were expelled from his body and the pure blood of Jesus Christ were injected into his body; and the purity resulting is from the blood, or the life, of Jesus Christ. The process of purification can never be carried out except by the direct living agency of the Holy Spirit. It is as false to say that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us without the Holy Spirit to apply that blood, as it would be to say that the water cleanses a filthy garment without any one to apply the water. If it is affirmed that it is the life of Christ for which the blood stands and that we are cleansed by His life being imparted to us, which in a certain sense is true, we still affirm that the life of Christ as imparted to and developed in human lives, is by and through the agency of the Holy Spirit, and in no other way.

No other conclusion is possible, then, except that the cleansing known to the human heart is that which is applied in regeneration by the Holy Spirit, which is a washing to purify the heart and life from the corruption which resulted from actual sin; and the purification which results from the incoming of the Holy Spirit, who applies the cleansing element, the blood or life of Jesus Christ; and consequently there is no purity apart from the Holy Spirit, and no purification from inbred sin except by the incoming of the Holy Spirit, which in the Bible is called the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The proposition is therefore clearly proven that since purity and power are related to each other as cause and effect, and since the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and power are also related to each other as cause and effect, there is no spiritual power separate from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the purity which results from His dwelling within our hearts.—Wesleyan Methodist.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER.

There is no investment in the Kingdom like the prayer of faith. True prayer does not rest with the present. It draws upon the stored riches of the past; projects itself into the future, and may run in advance of us through all time. "Prayers are deathless—prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them; outlive a generation; outlive an age; outlive a world." The prayers of the saints of all ages continue

as incense before the throne. The reserves of power and working force we have today may be the fruit of persistent, prevailing prayer upon the part of faithful souls of yesterday—of generations past. Failure upon our part in intercession may result in disaster to generations yet unborn. How great the privilege, how tremendous the responsibility!—From *Winning the World for Christ*.

I heard of two Romanists, a man and his wife, who became possessed of a copy of the Scriptures, of which they had never seen one before. The man began to read it, and one night, as he sat beside the fire, with the open book, he said, "Wife, if this book is right, we are wrong." He continued reading, and a few days after this he said, "Wife, if this book is right, we are lost." More eager now than ever to see what the Word of the Lord was, he studied the book until one night he joyfully exclaimed, "Wife, if this book is true, we are saved." The same Word that showed them they were undone, revealed also the Gospel of salvation. This is the glory of the Word of God; it is against us until we are led out of our sins, and then we find that death becomes the gate of life to our souls, and the Word of God is on our side. The same Word that reveals the terrors of the Lord, also says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."—Spurgeon.

Alcoholic Slavery Worse than War.—"Mrs. Bramwell Booth, speaking at Whitehall Rooms, London, concerning the evil of drink among women said: 'I am so glad that light is being thrown upon this great evil, and that the nation is coming to realize how many are the pitfalls and dangers, and how vastly the terrible craving for drink has overtaken the womanhood of the land.'

"It has taken a war to awaken people to the appalling fact to which we have been calling attention for so many years. We talk about what the war costs and the homes it has ruined, but really the war is a small thing compared with the terrible desolation wrought by the drink traffic that goes on year by year claiming its tens of thousands of victims."—Indian Witness.

## MENDING TROUSERS.

Two pastors' wives were visiting together. One said: "I don't know what we will do—my husband is so discouraged. Somehow his people do not care to hear him preach, and our salary is far behind. My husband feels so blue that he does not like to visit the people and pray with them, and so he sits around at home nearly all the time." The other sister said: "We are getting along fine. My husband spends much time visiting, and the people like to have him kneel and pray with them in their homes. Our congregations are always good, and our salary is paid up promptly." While the two sisters were talking, they were mending trousers. One was mending her husband's trousers at the seat; the other was mending her husband's trousers at the knees.—Sel.

"A guilty conscience is naturally suspicious of others."