

FAITHFUL IS HE THAT CALLETH YOU WHO ALSO WILL DO IT.

The Scripture certainly teaches an ever deepening Christian experience, which is the normal result of true devotion, and communion with God, by prayer, meditation and the study of the Word of God.

We must distinguish between a deepening of Christian experience which may be very limited in its meaning, and the blessing of being sanctiefied wholly for any or the least, additional devotion will certainly deepens the spiritual life, so when a meeting is called for the deepening of Christian life, or experience, it may mean little or much, as it is as indefinite as can be, having no definite point to be reached.

Every truly converted and regenerated soul that retains real spiritual life, and is in a normal spiritual condition, has a natural desire for the deeper things of salvation, as a healthy child has for food. The whole Bible from the beginning to the end, teaches an experience which entirely separates the child of God from the life and spirit of the world. The New Testament in particular teaches definitely a standard of spiritual life that requires a definite super-natural work of grace to enter, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost to retain it, and to live out in its requirements. This begins in Matt. 1-21. His Name shall be called Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and the following events.

2nd. The prayer meeting related in Acts 3-23-33.

3rd. The sermon and martyrdom of Stephen.—Acts 7.

4th. The great revival in Samaria under the labours of Philip and the descent of the Spirt upon his converts, in the meeting held by the apostles, Peter and John, for the deeper work of grace.

5th. Paul's conversion and fitting for his life work while on his way to Damascus, and under the leadership of Brother Ananias.

6th. Cornelius and his household under the preaching of the Apostle Peter.

much as heard whither there be any Holy Ghost."

Dr. Adam Clarke says: "For it was the common privilege of the disciples of Christ to receive not only the ordinary graces, but also the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit.

To this day the genuine disciples of Christ are distinguished from all false religionists, and from nominal christians, by being made partakers of this spirit.

Which enlightens their minds and convinces of sin, righteousness and judgment; quickens their souls, witnesses to their conscience that they are the children of God, and purifies their hearts.

Those who have not received these blessings from the Holy Spirt, whatever their profession may be, know nothing better than John's baptism; good, excellent in kind, but ineffectual to the salvation of those who live under the meridian of Christianity."

John the Baptist also declares that Christ will bestow a richer, grander blessing than that represented, accompanying the baptism administered by him. See Matt. 3-11-12.

And our Lord's sermon in Matt. 5th, 6th and 7th chapters, raises his standard to all succeeding generations, of all nations of the world. And this standard is maintained by our Lord and Saviour, and his apostles, through the remainder of the Book.

But there are several marked instances: 1st. The wonderful descent of the

7th. Aquilla and Priscilla attended a meeting held by the eloquent preacher Apollos, a man who if he lived in our day, would pass for the great preacher of a continent. But this splendid layman and his wife discovered that this man who was mighty in the Scriptures, and instructed in the way of the Lord, "knew only the baptism of John" (a great lesson for some of us baptists) took him home with them and "expounded (explained) unto him the way of the Lord more perfectly." Here is a case in point, that a man may have all these grand qualifications and yet lack this great essential. And possess the splendid meekness to be teachable, even by a layman and his wife, and note that Apollos was able to lead others on into deeper Christian life.

8th. Paul's visit to Ephesus, where he found certain disciples, and quickly discovered that this company of people were in a like experience as Apollos. They had gone as far as water baptism, and no one to lead them further in the blessings of the christian life. Simply baptized and left.

"And he said unto them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so Deepening of Christian life—yes; but how deep? Deep enough so we can live in the spiritual atmosphere where we can—

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men.

Rejoice evermore.

Pray without ceasing.

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Quench not the Spirit.

Despise not prophesyings.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

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Abstain from all appearance of evil. I. Thess. 5-15-22.

All these become delightfully easy, as a normal life to those who go deep enough to be sanctified wholly, and are preserved blameless by God and not by their own effort.

Sad indeed that people will accept anything so long as it don't involve the crucifixion of the "old man."