

MANIFESTATIONS TO PROFIT WITHAL.

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"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."—I. Cor. 12:7.

God's original purpose was to have man holy. His first plan was spoiled. His original purpose, however, remained unchanged; so He originated another plan. He would make man completely new, re-creating him "after God in righteousness and true holiness." This St. Paul had in mind when he prayed: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

In accomplishing this, God works through the Blood, the Word, my intelligence, my power of volition, the faith He has given me, but chiefest of all, and Administration of all, THE HOLY GHOST.

God's gift to the world was his Son. The Son's Gift to the Church is the Holy Spirit. We can receive this Gift today. Jesus prays the Father, and the Father gives Him the Holy Spirit for us. Then we cry to Jesus, and He "gives the Holy Spirit to them that ask him." "Having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus hath shed forth" the Spirit upon us "abundantly."

The forty days which followed the resurrection were days of great encouragement: pledges were renewed; promises restated. Jesus had still "many things to say unto them, but they could not yet bear them." "Howbeit when the Spirit would come, He would guide them INTO ALL TRUTH. He told them that they were witnesses of his sufferings, of his resurrection, to the doctrine of repentance, and remission of sins; and that they must preach these truths, in his name, among all nations. Luke 24:46-48. "But," said He, "before you go, TARRY."

The days between his ascension and the Pentecost were spent in earnest prayer and supplication. But "when the day of Pentecost was fully come . . . they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." The Promise of the Father came, the Teacher, Guide, Comforter, Administrator, Sanctifier, Endynamiter, the Blessed Holy Ghost. He came with grand diversity of manifestations of His Presence with and amongst them. There were operations for the heart, administrations for the church, and gifts for the various administrations and members of the church. These were bestowed "for the perfecting of the saints" themselves, "for the work of the ministry (ministering to the church) for the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ (by both additions to its membership, and the building up of each member in love)."

The OPERATIONS correct wrong heart conditions. The ADMINISTRATIONS are for carrying on the work of the church at home, world-wide evangelism, and administration of business and discipline. The GIFTS are enablements to aid in proclaiming, proving, impressing, and convincing, empowering, the church to meet any emergency expeditiously and get the truth effectively before and upon men. See I. Cor. 12 and 13. Read both chapters carefully.

When the band emerged from the upper room all aglow with holy fire, fishermen transformed into teachers and prophets, each equipped with what gift was necessary to meet the great emergency of that marvellous day the gospel was "preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven," and "not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but

in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." In the throes of pungent, searching conviction, the multitude cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

That question touches the very heart of the doctrine of holiness. There the apostolic preacher stood with his brethren, all saved, all wholly sanctified, all afire with the baptism. When were they regenerated? When were they sanctified wholly? When were they baptized with the Holy Ghost? Did they receive three separate and distinct experiences? Did they preach three? Did they testify to three? Where lies the road to apostolic fellowship anyhow? "Men and brethren, what shall I do" to get in line with those holy men?

We can only be apostolic and reply to such a question: "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 GHOST." First, repentance and remission of sins; secondly, the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Not a gift, nor yet gifts, not tongues nor something else of or from the Holy Spirit, BUT THE HOLY GHOST HIMSELF GIVEN UNTO YOU. Wonderful Gift! Marvellous Gift!

"WHEN HE IS COME" you will be the subject of his OPERATIONS. "The love of God will be shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost given unto you." This "perfect love casteth out fear." Then you will have in fulness "the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance;" not a single seed of strife remains. For that reason the LOVE OF GOD is the ROOT, TRUNK, and BRANCH of PERFECT UNITY. For this Jesus prayed: "Father, make them one in love." The gift of the Holy Ghost brings in that unity; "for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." And, bless God, it is the same God which worketh all these operations in all.

"WHEN HE IS COME" and the heart is subject to his operations, God will SET the various ADMINISTRATIONS in the church. See I. Cor. 12:27-30; Eph. 4:11-12; Rom. 12:3-8. There will be apostles, preachers, teachers, governments, helps, etc., "for the perfecting of his saints, for the work of ministering to the church, for the building up of the whole body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." See Ephesians 4:12-13.

"WHEN HE IS COME" the hearts are subject to his operations, the then willing believers find their God-appointed places in the divine program, and the GIFTS are manifested to enable them for the duties and tasks assigned them in the will of God. "To each believer," says Dr. C. I. Scofield, "is given a spiritual enablement and capacity for specific service. No believer is destitute of such gift (I. Cor. 12:7-11:27), but in their distribution the Spirit acts in free sovereignty (verse 11). There is no room for self-choosing, and Christian service is simply the ministry of such gift as the individual may have received. The gifts are diverse, but all are equally honorable because bestowed by the same Spirit, administered under the same Lord, and energized by the same God." There will be a sufficient supply of whatever the occasion demands to meet the emergency as God wills it to be met, truth, utterance, wisdom, humility, discernment, power in prayer, and above all, holy unction. Paul cries: "I can do all things

through Christ who strengthens me." And to us: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." See 2 Cor. 9:8.

"WHEN HE IS COME" He will be in you as the Spirit of love, power, and of a sound mind; the Spirit who baptizes all into one body; the Spirit of holiness, full, complete holiness. "Be filled with the Spirit;" filled with the love of I. Corinthians 13, the dynamic of Ephesians 3:16-19 and Acts 1:8, the unity of John 17:21-23 and Acts 4:32. Such a filling with the abiding Spirit will prove the antidote for formalism, the panacea for fanaticism, and a positive preventative for modernism (so-called).

"May the God of peace sanctify you wholly" by sending upon you the Holy Spirit, Jesus' own precious Gift, to illuminate the Word, revealing your privilege; anoint your mind, enabling you to see your privilege; strengthen your will, aiding you to utter abandonment to God's will; inspire your faith to be receptive and effective, working in you that entire sanctification provided by the precious "blood of sprinkling which speaketh better things than that of Abel." Then, enjoying every operation, willing to fit into the administration of his church and kingdom anywhere in the will of God, filled with the possibility of whatsoever gift will enable you to be at your best and do your best in the sphere to which He has called and appointed you, you will be holy in your Spirit-filled, yea, saturated spirit, in your Spirit-inspired, clean-thinking mind, and in your body, brought under and kept under the control of your Spirit-inspired mind. Hallelujah! Bless our God!

WHAT A CONTRAST!

Whenever I speak to parents, two fathers come before me. One lived on the Mississippi River. He was a man of great wealth. One day his eldest boy had been borne home unconscious. They did everything that man could do to restore him, but in vain. Time passed, and after a terrible suspense he recovered consciousness. "My son," the father whispered, "the doctor tells me you are dying."

"Oh," said the boy, "you never prayed for me, father; won't you pray for my lost soul now?" The father wept. It was true he had never prayed. He was a stranger to God. And in a little while that soul, unprayed for, passed into its dark eternity. The father has since said that he would give all his wealth if he could call back his boy to offer one short prayer for him.

What a contrast to the other father! He, too, had a son, and one day he came home to find him at the gates of death. His wife was weeping, and she said to him:

"Our boy is dying; he has had a change for the worse. I wish you would go in and see him." The father went into the room and placed his hand upon the brow of his dying boy, and could feel that the cold, damp sweat was gathering there; the cold, icy hand of death was feeling for the cords of life.

"Do you know, my son, that you are dying?" asked the father.

"Am I? Is this death? Do you really think I am dying?"

"Yes, my son, your end on earth is near."

"And I will be with Jesus tonight, father."—Unidentified.