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One night, years ago, I was sitting at my desk in my study late at night, and the work of the day was done. There was a great deal of confusion about my study table, I had not had time to re-arrange my papers. The work of the day being done, I fell into a reverie, and as I came out of that reverie I found myself waving back and forth in my right hand a little fourpage leaflet. I do not know how it got into my hand. I suppose I took it off the table, for I had never seen it before. I looked at that leaflet, and I noticed these words across the top of the leaflet in large print, "Wanted, a Baptism with fire." It immediately fastened my attention. I said, "That is precisely what I do want; if there is anybody on this earth that needs fire, it is I," for I was born, and had grown up cold as an iceberg. So I read the leaflet. There was not much in the leaflet that impressed me, except one text, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

The following Saturday evening when I went to a little gathering for prayer held at my church, I said to the janitor of the church, when the prayer meeting was over, "The promise says, 'He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.'" A sweet smile passed over the janitor's face; and there was something about his look which made me think, "Well, the janitor seems to know all about it. I wonder if he has got something his pastor has not got."

During the days of the next week, when I sat down in my study, when I walked the streets, that kept ringing in my ears; "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Thursday night came, and at the close of my day's work I knelt down before God, and asked Him for a text or for a subject for Sunday evening's sermon. A brother from London was going to preach for me in the morning. The only text I could see in the whole Bible was, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire," and I said, "Father, I am not going to preach on Sunday morning; that is a Sunday morning text, and I don't preach in the morning. Mr. Inglis is going to preach then." I generally preach in the morning to Christians, and to the unsaved in the evening. "I want an evening text. But I could not see anything, but just that one text, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." "Well," I said, "Father, if that is the text you want me to preach on, evening or morning, I will preach on it; but I want to know." Just then there came looming up out of the Bible two other texts and both of these texts had "fire" in them; and God opened the three texts, and I had my sermon.

The next Sunday night I went to my church and preached that sermon. When I had finish-

ed it I said, "Now all the friends who want to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire tonight, and all who want to be saved, come downstairs." The rooms were jammed, and when all who replied to the invitation had found room, I asked all who wanted to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire to go into the kindergarten room, and those who wished to be saved, to go into another room, the inquiry room, and the rest to stay where they were. They began to go into both rooms; I went into the kindergarten room, where the people were sitting in the little bits of kindergarten chairs, and so closely packed that I literally had to step over their heads to get to the platform.

WHAT THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES FOR THE BELIEVER

Dr. R. A. Torrey

"He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Matt. 3:11.

Oh, what a time we had in that room that night! When I came out I asked my assistant, who was in charge of the inquiry room, what sort of a time he had, and he said, "The Spirit of God was there; and many people came out into the light." I asked Professor Tower, the choirmaster, who was left in charge of the third meeting, composed of those who had not entered either of the two rooms, and he said, "We had no meeting at all; I could not say a word; the people got right down on their knees before God and talked to Him. I hope God will bless the Word the same way tonight. I believe He will.

You will find the first of the three fires in Matt. 3:11, 'I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.' That is the first of the three fires, the baptism with fire — what does it mean? Now we know what it means to be baptized with water — we have seen that — but what does it mean to be baptized with fire? You will get your answer by asking two things: first, what is fire said to do in the Bible? and second, what happened to the Apostles at Pentecost when they were baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire?

The first thing that the Bible says that fire does is, fire reveals. In I Cor. 3:13, we read: "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire." And the first thing that a baptism with fire does is to reveal what a man really is, to show us to ourselves as God sees us. I remember the night before I preached that sermon late Saturday night after the sermon was all arranged, I got down and said, "Heavenly Father, I think I have a sermon for

tomorrow night, but I don't believe I have got that of which the sermon speaks. I am going to preach on the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire, and how can I preach on it if I have not had it? Now, in order that I may preach an honest sermon, baptize me with fire right now." God heard the prayer, and the first thing that came to pass was that I had such a revelation of myself as I never had before in all my life. I had never dreamed that there was so much pride, so much vanity, so much personal ambition, so much downright meanness in my heart and life as I saw that night. And men and women, if you get a baptism with fire, I believe one of the first things that comes to you will be a revelation of yourself as God sees you. Is not that just what we need, a revelation of ourselves today that will spare us the awful humiliation of the revelation of self in that day when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ?

The second thing that fire does is, fire refines, or purifies. In Malachi 3:13, we are told of the purifying power of fire. There is nothing that purifies like fire. Water will not cleanse as fire does. Suppose I have a piece of gold, and there is some filth on the outside of it; how can I get it off? I can wash it off with water. But suppose the filth is inside, how will you get it out? There is only one way; throw it into the fire. And, men and women, if the filth is on the outside it can be washed away with the water of the Word; but the trouble is that the filth is on the inside, and what we need is the fire of the Holy Ghost penetrating into the innermost depths of our being, burning, burning, BURNING, CLEANSING! What a refining came to the apostles on the day of Pentecost! How full of self-seeking they had been up to the very last Supper! At the Last Supper, they had a dispute as to who should be the first in the Kingdom of Heaven, but after Pentecost they no longer thought of self, but Christ. How weak and cowardly they had been right up to the crucifixion! They all forsook Him and fled, and Peter denied Him, at the accusation of a servant maid, with oaths and curses. But after the day of Pentecost, that same Peter that cursed and swore and denied Christ when the servant maid accused him of being a follower of Jesus, faced the very council that condemned Him, and said, "If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means is he made whole, be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole." Cleansing is a very slow process by ordinary methods, but a baptism with fire does marvels in a moment.

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