

## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU

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While the baptism with the Holy Spirit has to do with character, the Holy Spirit coming upon you has to do with action. The one with being, the other with doing.

Power for service includes courage to speak up. Perhaps the most difficult thing about telling another person what it means to be a Christian is screwing up enough courage to say it. The first four chapters of Acts reveal ordinary men and women who were enabled to overcome their timidity, and to speak with great boldness.

There are times, however, when it is difficult to know the right thing to say. At such times the Holy Spirit often supplies the word, the phrase, or the silence. He recalls to our minds appropriate words of Scripture. If we are sensitive to the situation, He will help us to have proper tact and understanding.

Again, power for service includes guidance by the Holy Spirit. A family in my church community had a son in a near-by university who needed the Lord. I had driven by the university campus many times without stopping to hunt him up and get acquainted, when one night I felt prompted to stop and find him. Swinging my car into the parking lot, I began the search. It was not long before I was seated in a dormitory room, talking to a very needy freshman. The situation had been prepared by God, and as we got up from our knees, I was glad that the Holy Spirit is our guide.

Since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has been available to all the Lord's people, as an abiding guest, and for all spiritual needs. O happy promise, left by our Lord, of a Helper who should dwell within His people, and abide with them forever!

But just as the cleansing of the Holy Spirit does not take away from humanity, neither does the power of the Holy Spirit add to it. It will not bring talents which God did not give to start with, although the abilities which you do have will be signally blessed of the Lord. The Holy Spirit will not turn everyone into a Moody or a Billy Graham. A one-talent man will still be a one-talent man, but that one talent will be anointed with God's power.

Two college students were discussing the preachers they had heard the day before. Brother A preached in the morning. He was naturally a quiet man, speaking calmly and sincerely, but with restraint. His clear, somewhat prosaic exposition of John 15 was delivered without the benefit of gesticulation. In the evening Brother B. preached. A converted newspaperman, he used a very colorful vocabulary. He spoke with wit and fervor, gesturing a great deal.

The students agreed: Brother B had the Holy Spirit; Brother A did not.

The students were most probably wrong. The Holy Spirit comes to cleanse and anoint with power the personality that God has given, not to make it into something entirely different. God needs a great variety of personalities to do His work, and He wishes only that they should be clean and courageous.

Words spoken by the apostle Peter convey a concluding facet of truth about the Holy Spirit and you. When Peter said, "Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38), he was suggesting the great simplicity of having the Holy Spirit. He is a gift to be received.

God is not the author of tension and strain, and the Holy Spirit is not something to be wrested by force, obtaining His blessings by a supreme effort or a long struggle. He is not taken, He is received.

There may indeed be a struggle involved. Because the Holy Spirit comes to cleanse selfishness, the struggle will be whether or not we really want Him. When God has won the battle for full lordship over our life, the strife is over.



PORT MAITLAND, N. S.

During the past year many blessings, both from the Lord, and the good people of Port Maitland and Brazil Lake have been forthcoming. Through the medium of the "Highway" we wish to express our appreciation to the people, and lift our hearts in praise to God for the many manifestations of goodness and mercy that have come to us during this time.

This year we have suffered several minor reverses, which have been a slight handicap in our endeavor for expansion—memberships having been transferred, families moving away, serious illness, etc. However, the Lord has been with us.

We had a good meeting with Rev. Nicholson. As a whole, the church was strengthened. Twelve were at the altar. Some were new converts, others were sanctified and reclaimed. It is gratifying indeed to work with a people who are determined to carry on for something better.

In conjunction with the regular services of the week, cottage prayer meetings are being held. These are proving to be an outlet to added strength and blessing. With confidence in the promises of God for greater things, we face the future with much anticipation.

S. W. Ingersoll.

## NEW CHURCH AT INGOMAR, N. S.

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings in Jesus precious name!

We are very glad to write you that on May 26, a Reformed Baptist Church was organized at Sandy Point, Shelburne Co., N. B. Brother Steeves, pastor at Woods Harbour, gave the right hand of fellowship to seven new members, with Brother Burbury, assisting.

Our church membership is small now but it shows great signs of increasing. Already there are other converts who plan to join in the near future, and unsaved have requested prayer.

We praise the Lord, too, for sending us Brother and Sister Burbury, to labor in this corner of His vineyard for the next year. We know God is going to use them for the salvation of many souls.

We would like to add a word of appreciation to Brother Ole Kent, who labored with us faithfully in this area at the beginning of the work, without receiving much financial support. However, we are sure God will richly repay him.

Please pray for this work, that we may grow stronger, and souls may be added to His Kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Carl Goulden,  
(Church Clerk)

John Masefield wrote of a spiritual experience, speaking as though his old self had been burned alive. In "The Everlasting Mercy," he said,

"I did not think, I did not strive,

The deep peace burnt my me alive . . . ."

"I did not strive" . . . . "Ye shall receive" . . . .

You may receive the Holy Spirit by asking Him to come in. You must really want Him to cleanse the pride and selfishness of heart. You must genuinely desire His power, to serve God humbly and effectively. But where there is complete yielding to the will of God, the Holy Spirit will enter in His fullness.

Open your life now, and invite Him to come in. He knows when He is wanted!

The King's Highway