

TWENTY-TWO QUESTIONS

Queries humbly proposed to those who deny
Perfection to be attainable in this life.

By John Wesley

1. Has there not been a larger measure of the Holy Spirit given under the Gospel than under the Jewish dispensation? If not, in what sense was the Spirit not given before Christ was glorified? John vii. 39.

2. Was that "glory which followed the sufferings of Christ" (1 Peter i. 11) an external glory, or an internal, namely, the glory of holiness?

3. Has God anywhere in Scripture commanded us more than He has promised to us?

4. Are the promises of God respecting holiness to be fulfilled in this life, or only in the next?

5. Is a Christian under any other laws than those which God promises to write in our hearts? Jer. xxxi. 31, etc.; Heb. viii. 10.

6. In what sense is "the righteousness of the law fulfilled in those who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit?" Rom. viii. 4.

7. Is it impossible for anyone in this life to "love God with all the heart, and mind, and soul, and strength?" And is the Christian under any law which is not fulfilled in this love?

8. Does the soul's going out of the body effect its purification from indwelling sin?

9. If so, is it not something else, not "the blood of Christ, which cleanseth" it from all sin?

10. If His blood cleanseth us from all sin while the soul and body are united, is it not in this life?

11. If when that union ceases, is it not in the next? And is not this too late?

12. If in the article of death, what situation is the soul in, when it is neither in the body nor out of it?

13. Has Christ anywhere taught us to pray for what He never designs to give?

14. Has He not taught us to pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven?" And is it not done perfectly in heaven?

15. If so, has He not taught us to pray for perfection on earth? Does He not, then, design to give it?

16. Did not St. Paul pray according to the will of God, when he prayed that the Thessalonians might be "sanctified wholly, and preserved" (in this world, not in the next, unless he was praying for the dead) "blameless in body, soul, and spirit, unto the coming of Jesus Christ?"

17. Do you sincerely desire to be freed from indwelling sin in this life?

18. If you do, did not God give you that desire?

19. If so, did He not give it you to mock you, since it is impossible it should ever be fulfilled?

20. If you have not sincerity enough even to desire it, are you not disputing about matters too high for you?

21. Do you ever pray to God to "cleanse the thoughts of your heart, that you may perfectly love Him?"

22. If you neither desire what you ask, nor believe it attainable, pray you not as a fool prayeth?

God help thee to consider these questions calmly and impartially!

A GREAT, UNIVERSAL OUTPOURING

By Oswald J. Smith

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh" (Acts 2:17).

God has declared that in the "last days" He would pour out of His Spirit. That promise was partially fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. But it remains for us to see the final and complete fulfillment.

Let us again remind our readers that this is still the
The King's Highway

dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Have we then Scripture to warrant the hope of another great outpouring of the Spirit of God as we enter the last hours of the last days of this Age?

I believe we have. It is my deep conviction that God is wanting to pour out His Spirit once again and that—wherever He can find a people who will meet all His conditions—He will give flood-tides of mighty revival. And this, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, is, I am convinced the greatest need of the hour.

But is this outpouring for a select few? is it only for spiritual leaders, and for men alone? By no means. Thank God, His word is absolutely clear and conclusive for it says, "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh." Yes! Upon rich and poor flesh, high and low flesh, old and young flesh—all flesh!

"And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy . . . and on My servants and on My hand-maidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy." Not the men only, but the women; not the old only, but the young; not the high only, but the low. Daughters will prophesy, and handmaidens as well.

All may claim a part. It is to be a great universal outpouring for all peoples everywhere. Anyone may have it, any church may expect it. This is the solution of all problems! Not money, but the outpoured Spirit. Not how to get the attention of the people, but how to secure the operation of the Holy Ghost! Not better preaching, but Holy Ghost preaching. "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh." This, my brethren, is the greatest need of the hour.

KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD

We are kept by the power of God from certain conditions and in other conditions. It is well to clearly understand what grace will do for us and what it will not do.

We can be kept from sin. He "is able to keep you from falling." It is a great thing to be saved from sin. It is greater to be kept from it, and this God promises to do. Charles Wesley says:

Happy the man who wisdom finds,
Thrice happy who his guest retains.

How many fail to stand the testing after having been cleansed. But this is not the divine fault. God has provided the antidote. He has told us to put on the invincible armor. If we are not kept, it is through disobedience in failing to keep the whole armor on.

We may be kept in many conditions, though not kept from them—kept in spite of them.

God did not keep Daniel from the lion's den, but kept him in it. What was the difference? He did not keep the three Hebrew children from the fiery furnace, but he kept them in it. What was the difference? Was it not better to be kept in the lion's den and enjoy the society of angels than to have remained outside? Was it not better to get acquainted with the Son of God even if it cost a fiery introduction than to fail to meet him? It we must go to the lions' dens and fiery furnaces in order to have greater revelations and a better acquaintance with God, then let them come, the sooner the better.

Paul was not kept from the ship-wreck, but in the midst of it the angel of God appeared to him. He was not saved from the executioner's block. But God so kept him that the executioner's block only helped him the sooner to his crown.

We shall not be kept from trials, sorrows, temptations, losses, and afflictions, but God cannot only keep us in them, but make them turn to our advantage. Full salvation is exemption from sin, but not from affliction or temptation. But it gives victory in every circumstance.—**Heart and Life.**