

— Guest Editorial —

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS IS THE BEAUTY OF EFFICIENCY

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The beauty of holiness is the beauty of adequacy; it is poise rather than polish. It is performance rather than promise.

The beauty of holiness is not the absence of turmoil alone, nor the intoxication of joy, but it is energy for the task assigned.

Life in the Spirit is joyous, but it is also pre-eminently efficient. Pentecost brought joy and peace and purity, but it also dispelled forever the paralyzing sense of futility.

The life of holiness is not ease but encounter, not song but strife, not ecstasy but energy, not calmness but conquest.

Pentecost was an endowment for service, equipment for world evangelism—not with frail human reasoning but with divine compelling conviction.

The world of paganism was a terrible arena for the infant church. All about this little company of Spirit-filled saints were the lure of the flesh, the power of the world, and the dominion of Satan. The coming of the Spirit made slaves superior to sovereigns, and turned cowards into conquerors.

Pentecost made those early men soul-savers and life-changers. They undertook a tremendous evangelistic enterprise and pursued it with unprecedented success.

They were so vitalized by the Spirit that the world could not ignore them nor remain indifferent to them.

These Spirit-empowered men sung their way out of jails and by the Word of power subdued mobs of violence.

The world was compelled to listen. The Spirit's presence made the inexperienced church strategically competent and dynamically effective. They marched across the continent declaring salvation through Christ alone and shattered to bits age-old beliefs and customs.

The beauty of holiness is the beauty of efficient performance. It rolls steadily forward like a well-oiled, intelligently directed machine.

The beauty of holiness is not self-emolument or honor or happiness or ease but world conquest for Christ.

God give us holiness — Pentecostal power, Spirit energized men who are fully committed, utterly abandoned to the task of world evangelism.

STRANGE PEOPLE

People who talk about prayer, but never pray.

People who say tithing is right, but never tithe.

People who wish to belong to the church, but never attend or support the church program.

People who say the Bible is God's Word to man, yet never read it.

People who say that eternity is more important than time, but who live for the present life.

People who criticize others for things they do themselves.

People who stay from church for trivial reasons, and then sing, "Oh, how I love Jesus!"

People who follow the devil all their lives, but expect to go to heaven.

—The Expositor.

Love is not softness but rather that regard for others which leads one to noble deeds of self-surrender.

—G. E. Failing

Has He Come To You?

"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed" was the pointed, personal question the Apostle Paul directed toward the Ephesian believers. The implications of the inquiry are manifest to all who desire to know the truth which makes for spiritual freedom.

One may be a believer and still be without the gift of the Spirit. This the question clearly implies. Equally plain is the suggestion that receiving the Spirit is an experience so definite and epochal that the recipient could be expected to witness clearly concerning His coming. Moreover, raising the question presents to the believer both a duty and privilege. "If you have not received Him," says the apostle, "you should be seeking, and if you seek with all your hearts, you shall surely find."

"I have heard people speak of the 'second blessing,'" said a minister friend to me recently, "but I have received not only a second, but a third, a fourth, and many more." I did not dispute the good brother's testimony, for most truly he had received manifold blessings from the Lord. The vilest sinner could give a like testimony, for God sends blessings abundant upon the just and the unjust, the evil and the good. Every person in this world might truly sing "with numberless blessings each moment He crowns," for every good gift, life, health, temporal provision, nature's store of wealth and beauty, all are ours through the benevolence of our kind Creator, and all are enjoyed by good and bad. But when we enter the realm of spiritual blessing we discover that special provisions have been made for the children of God, provisions which become available to us as we are made children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

Clearly designated as an exclusive provision, for "believers only," is the gift of the Holy Ghost. The outpouring of the Spirit was the fulfilment of "the promise of the Father" to His own children, who are unmistakably regenerated persons as indicated by our Lord's prayer of John 17, receiving on the day of Pentecost the blessing which the world could not receive. The promise of the Spirit is always directed toward the believer and the call to Pentecost is exclusively to the Church. Thus the coming of the Spirit to the heart of the Christian is a definite crisis experience to which we may give bright and joyful testimony. The saints who have given glad witness of the Spirit's fulness, Wesley, Fox, Booth, Moody, Simpson, Torrey, and a host of others, all agree on this one point—the baptism with the Holy Ghost is an experience which follows regeneration and is equally distinct and definite as that of forgiveness or justification. When the promised blessing of the Spirit's coming is classified as one of a multitude of blessings which God bestows, the great truth which the promise sets forth is soon lost in the mist of indefiniteness. It is when the believer is confronted with the plain question, "Have ye received?" with the correlative promise of the Father, that earnest seekers become happy finders of this "blessing" which God reserves for His own.

"Have ye received?" If you have, you will joyfully witness to the Spirit's coming and abiding. If you cannot give such witness God waits to bestow the Gift upon you. Rest not until you are able to sing—

"The Comforter has come,

The Comforter has come!

The Holy Ghost from heav'n,

The Father's promise giv'n;

Oh, spread the tidings 'round,

Wherever man is found,

The Comforter has come!"