

## A Warning With A Reason

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"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30.

I said in my first article on this theme that the text challenges us to a study of the work and person of the Holy Spirit. Continuing what I have already written, shall we consider some things the Gospels teach us concerning the Holy Spirit, and especially His relation to Jesus Christ.

The human nature of Jesus apparently was produced by the Holy Spirit, St. Matthew, chapter 1: verse 20; St. Luke 1: 35. Moreover, the Spirit had control over all that Jesus did as the representative of mankind. "He was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil," St. Matthew, 4:1. Christ's sacrifice was "offered through the Spirit", Hebrews 9: 14. Jesus was "full of the Holy Ghost", St. Luke 4:1, Jesus returned in the "power of the Spirit, into Galilee." All that belongs to Jesus, as God, is of His own eternal Spirit, but the life He lived as Man was in the power of the Holy Ghost.

Near the end of Christ's ministry, He gave His disciples much clear teaching on the relation of the Spirit to Himself. The Spirit's coming was determined by Christ's going. "It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I go I will send Him unto you." The Holy Spirit was the "other Comforter, Whom the Father will send in My Name." "He shall glorify Me"; "He shall not speak of Himself, He shall take of Mine and shall show it unto you;" "He shall bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." In all this, Christ was getting His disciples ready for His going and for the Spirit's coming. The work that Christ had finished on the Cross, with all its saving benefits, must be administered by the Holy Ghost, Paul refers to it as: "The ministration of the Spirit." It is proper to say, that all God the Father did in planning Salvation, and all that God the Son did in providing Salvation, is now under the Administration of God the Holy Spirit for application. He only, is the Vicar of Jesus Christ. The Holy Trinity united in setting up the redemptive machinery, but since Pentecost, the operation and control of that machinery rests with the Holy Ghost.

As Administrator, He has a ministry to the ungodly. "He reproveth the world of sin, of righteousness, and judgment." The sin He reproveth of is the world's rejection of Christ. Ephesians 4:17-19, is an example of what that rejection leads to. "He convinces the world of righteousness"—the necessity of it, and the source of it—Christ. "He convinces men of judgment". In the inner consciousness of unbelieving humanity there is a sense of "outwardness", of "not belonging". The Holy Spirit draws close lines in His judgments of men.

As Administrator, He has a ministry to the believer. Step by step, from the "far country" to the "Father's home", He enlightens the mind, strengthens, resolves, and inspires faith. He consoles, converts and cleanses all who "walk in the light." The benefits of the Atonement are made available by the Spirit. What God the Son provided, God the Holy Ghost applies.

As Administrator, He has a ministry in and through the Church. The Holy Spirit builds the Church. It is the Body of Christ, indwelt and animated by the Spirit. Through this Organism the Spirit works. By Him its workmen are called; by Him its message is given and anointed; by Him its program is set up. It was to the Church He came at Pentecost, and from that hour has been a Presence and Power within. As Spirit, He is not limited to the Church. He runs faster than the feet of men. He

The King's Highway

## — Guest Editorial —

### HARVEST DAYS

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In the business of winning souls, personal work plays a large and important part. If any group ought to know the value of such effort, the holiness people should, for many of them have been brought to the Lord in this way.

Personal work sometimes means a protracted conversation and repeated visits; again, just a few words of witness at the right moment have meant victory. The Spirit-led dealings with individuals in camps and revivals by devoted workers have been used of God to move hundreds of seekers. There is no worthy substitute for the personal touch.

Personal work, be it in witness, prayer, or simple invitation, is a vital part of visitation evangelism. This is a practical going out into the highways and hedges for souls, that His house may be filled (Luke 14:15-24).

Personal soul winning, conscientiously engaged in and persistently followed, can be productive of blessed results. The mathematics of such effort shows astonishing possibilities. Ted Seeley, in a current issue of *Moody Monthly*, gives an interesting appraisal of this.

"According to the conservative estimate of one outstanding Christian leader, there are 100 million Christians—truly born-again ones—in the world today. This out of a total world population of 2,800 million. Suppose that you and I and every one of God's children would win just one soul to Christ during this new year. (Is this too much to expect?) Then suppose we helped that soul to grow, prayed with him, read the Bible with him, taught him daily in the things of the Lord, tended his soul as we would a tender plant, and helped him learn to win others to Christ. Then suppose that again in 1961 you and I and all the "old" Christians, plus all the new, one-year-old Christians, each won another to the Lord—loving, leading, teaching, helping him in his newfound life—and did the same in 1962, 1963, and 1964. If this were done, do you know what the result would be by New Year's Day 1965? Every living soul would be a born-again child of God."

Perhaps there are fewer than 100 million true Christians in the world—there could be more. But apply the principle to any small congregation, limit it to those who testify to full salvation. Let each one who loves God win one each year. If there are 25 members to start with and each wins one, another year will see 50. Allowing a 25 percent loss for death and change of residence, five years could produce a congregation of 600.

Soul winning cannot be reduced to mathematics, to be sure, but the figures show the possibilities. And these facts put their finger on a tragic weakness. There are entire churches that gain but little during a whole year. We may not like to hear it said, but in many instances the majority of members are on the "inactive list" when it comes to winning souls.

Since churches are made up on individuals, why not ask myself, "What am I doing for the Lord? How long since I have won a soul to Jesus? And if I have lost my zeal to win souls and am doing little or nothing, how shall I explain this to the Saviour whom I claim to love?"

provides the setting for the conversion of the Ethiopian; He prepares an Apostle for a ministry to the Gentiles; He knows and rebukes the hypocrisy of worshippers who would lie to God. He is everywhere, and His influence is felt.

(To be Continued)