



— Editorial —

Editor's note: The following editorial is the first in a series to give our young people an inside view of Christianity as it is demonstrated in the Acts of the Apostles.

THE FAITH OF THE APOSTLES (1)

The Acts of the Apostles deals with the development of the Christian church from the ascension of Christ to the time of Paul's imprisonment at Rome and the beginning of his ministry at Rome. In a sense the book of Acts is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Both were written by Saint Luke. Both were addressed to Theophilus (Acts 1:1).

Some writers refer to the Acts of the Apostles as the formal beginning of the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. In this account the departing Christ made an announcement of a world wide mission through human agencies under the leadership of the Spirit. "Ye shall receive power and we shall be witnesses," (Acts 1:8).

While these facts are evident, there is something equally important revealed to us. It is the faith of the apostles. Faith in this sense is a belief. The book also reveals that faith is a quality of the believer who has implicit trust in God. The scripture reveals that "Without faith it is impossible to please God". And he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." In both of these senses the apostles possessed great faith. I want to point out the characteristics of their faith.

They had faith in the Divinity of Jesus. (Acts 3:8) The man at the gate beautiful received healing from the Divine Christ. Peter said that his healing was through faith in the name of Christ. It was this faith in the Divine working of Jesus which gave the apostles faith in the atoning work of Jesus. With this in mind we quote Acts 20:8. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He purchased with His blood."

The author also declares, "Whosoever believeth in Him shall have remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). It was faith in this atoning work of Christ which gave to the apostles a zeal which drove them to the ends of the earth to tell of Jesus and His love. One of our hymn writers caught the significance of this when the following words were penned, "The blood that Jesus once shed for me never will lose its power." Praise God for this fact.

STEADFASTNESS

Fred Scott Shepard

Stand fast; the need is urgent;

Be strong in mind and heart;

The hosts of sin are rampant;

Play faithfully your part.

Stand fast, when danger threatens,

When storms of life assail;

When steadfastness of purpose

Will in the end prevail.

Stand fast, by faith upgirded,

Let truth your watchword be;

Armed with Divine equipment,

Fight onward valiantly.

—Gospel Herald

PONDER PENTECOST

I THE MEANING OF PENTECOST

1. The Spirit on them
2. The Spirit in them
3. The Spirit through them

II THE MESSAGE OF PENTECOST

1. Distinct from Conversion
2. Intended for Service
3. Proved by results

III THE SECRET OF PENTECOST

1. Singleness of Aim, "One Accord" (Acts 2:11)
2. Preparedness of Spirit, "Continuing in Prayer" (Acts 1:14; 2:1)
3. Willingness of Life, "Began to Speak" (Acts 2:4)

IV THE PREACHING OF PENTECOST

1. Its matter — a personal Christ
2. Its manner — clearly, completely, convincingly.

V THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

1. Its life expressed — in truth, power, love, joy.
2. Its life explained — Christ for them, a Saviour accepted; Christ in them, a friend experienced; Christ through them, a Master manifested.

W. H. Griffith,
from "Holiness Echoes"

PRAYER

Lord, what a change within us one short hour
Spent in Thy presence will avail to make!
What heavy burdens from our bosoms take!
What parched grounds refresh as with a shower!
We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;
We rise, and all, the distant and the near,
Stands forth in sunny outline, brave and clear;
We kneel, how weak; we rise, how full of power!
Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others—that we are not always strong—
That we are sometimes overborne with care—
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled—when with us is prayer,
And joy and strength and courage are with Thee?
—Richard C. Trench

A HUNDRED THOUSAND SOULS

A hundred thousand souls a day
Are passing one by one away
In Christless guilt and gloom,
Without one ray of hope or light,
With future dark as endless night,
They're passing to their doom.

The Master's coming draweth near;
The Son of Man will soon appear,
His returning is at hand.
But e'er that glorious day can be
This Gospel of the Saviour we
Must preach in every land.
O' Let us then His coming haste;
O, let us end this awful waste
Of souls that never die!
A thousand million still are lost;
A Saviour's blood has paid the cost.
O, hear their dying cry!

—Selected