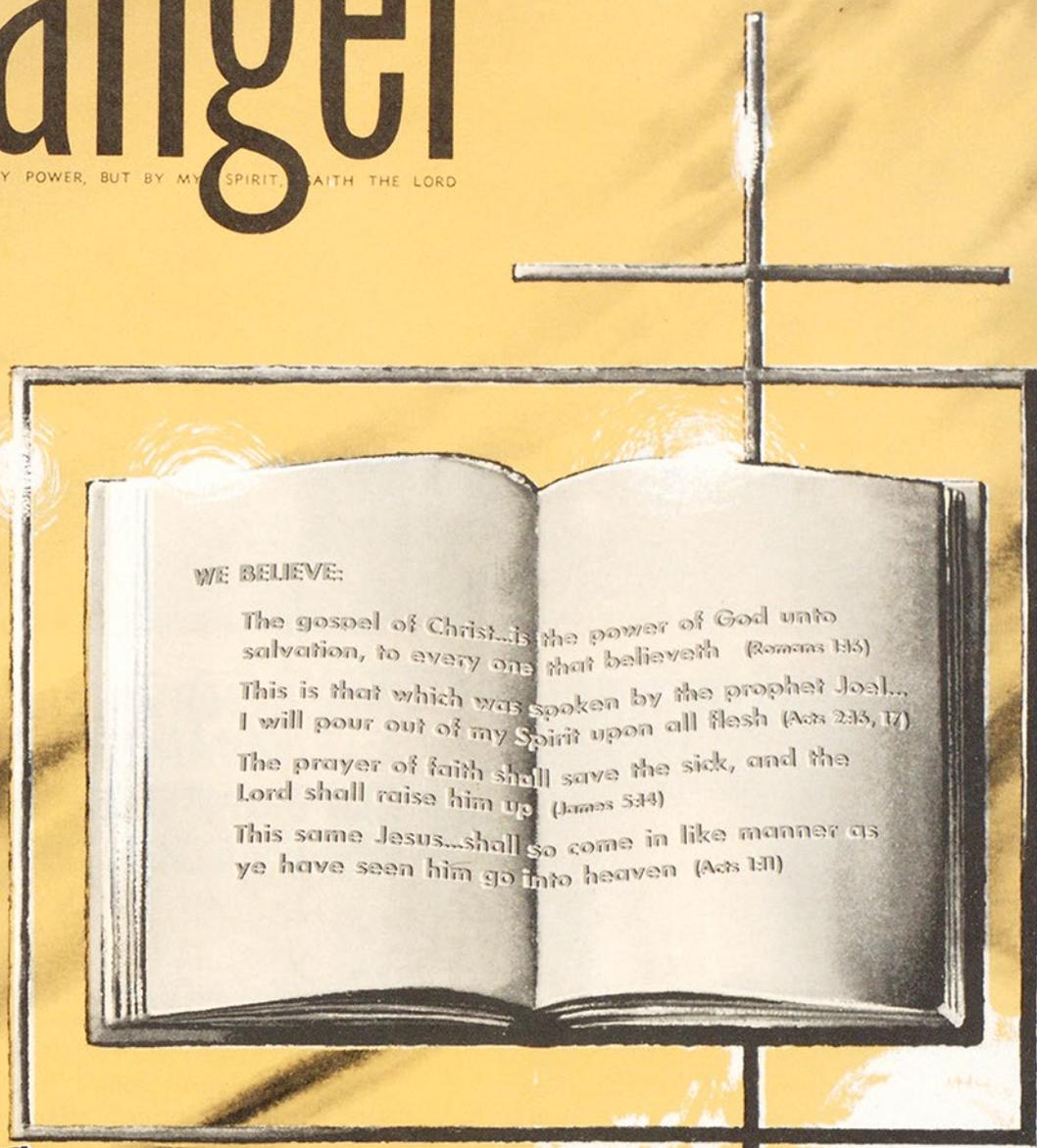


THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD

WORLD'S FAIR ISSUE



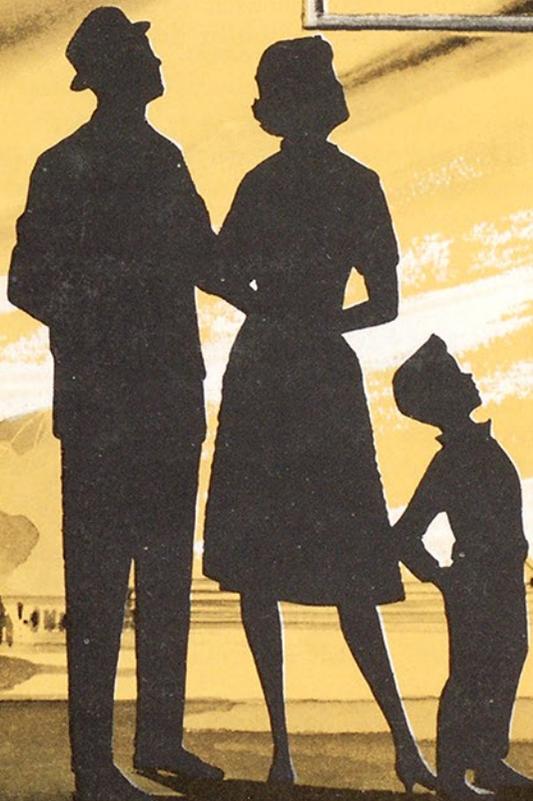
WE BELIEVE:

The gospel of Christ...is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth (Romans 1:16)

This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel... I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh (Acts 2:17, 18)

The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up (James 5:14)

This same Jesus...shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven (Acts 1:11)





"Brother Zimmerman, what denominations has this Neo-Pentecostal Movement penetrated?" asks Editor R. C. Cunningham after being welcomed into the General Superintendent's office.

AN INTERVIEW WITH T. F. ZIMMERMAN, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Brother Zimmerman, what is this Neo-Pentecostal Movement that we have been reading about in so many newspapers and magazines?

The word "neo" comes from a Greek term which means "new." It probably is somewhat of a misnomer to apply the word "new" to a movement that is over 60 years old.

Why then is it called "new"?

I suppose it is called "new" because it is now reaching into ever-widening circles, penetrating a number of old-line denominations.

What denominations has it penetrated? Will you name a few?

Numerous testimonies have come to us from members of the Episcopal Church, and from Lutherans, some Methodists, a number of Presbyterians, among others. In some of the historic churches it has reached such proportions that it is a significant matter of current concern.

Would you say the people of these historic denominations have received an experience similar to that which has characterized the Pentecostal Movement for over 60 years?



"Testimonies have come to us from members of the Episcopal Church, and from Lutherans, some Methodists, a number of Presbyterians, among others. . . ."



"In some of the historic churches it has reached such proportions that it is a significant matter of current concern."

THE NEO-PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT

There has been a close similarity, particularly in the emphasis that is placed on speaking in other tongues as the initial physical evidence of this experience.

Would it be correct to refer to these Spirit-filled persons in various denominations today as Pentecostal believers, even though they are still members of non-Pentecostal churches?

From our viewpoint this would be proper terminology. In the latest *Yearbook of American Churches* there is a catalog of church groups and several are listed under "Pentecostal." The term "Pentecostal" simply denotes an experience that is similar to that which the Early Church received on the Day of Pentecost.

How about the ministers of these churches? Are the pastors themselves Pentecostal in their personal experience?

In a large number of cases the pastor himself is the one who has received the experience and has been instrumental in leading many of his members in this direction.

And the denominational leaders—are they sympathetic to this New Pentecostalism that is spreading among their congregations?

Many are. There seems to be a feeling of concern

in many churches over their great need of renewed spiritual power. And of course the conviction is widespread that many churches have not emphasized the person and work of the Holy Spirit as they ought. In compensating for this lack of emphasis, a number of churches have reawakened to a dimension of spiritual ministry that has been lying dormant among their doctrinal beliefs.

Would you say that most leaders in the various denominations are sympathetic?

No, not most, but many. Some are skeptical and hold reservations. This would be true in all the historic denominations. I think you will find pockets of interest where numbers are avidly promoting this Pentecostal experience while others have reservations as to what the implications of this new move may portend for them. I have had personal conversations with various leaders in a number of different denominations and have found a considerable depth of interest.

Are there some variations of emphasis between the Assemblies of God and some of the Spirit-filled ministers in these non-Pentecostal denominations?

Our Assemblies of God movement has adhered very strongly to what we consider a scriptural position in re-

gard to Spirit-filled living, recognizing that the baptism of the Holy Spirit with speaking in other tongues is not terminal, but introductory. It is not a goal but rather a gateway. It is a doorway into a new spiritual way of life. We never have held that the baptism of the Holy Spirit *per se* makes us all one in doctrine or practice. On the other hand, it is our firm conviction that, as Christ indicated, the Holy Spirit when He comes will lead the believer into all truth. Thus, if we continue to walk in the Spirit there eventually will be a fulfillment of the prayer of Christ that we all might be one even as He and the Father are one.

How new is this "New Pentecostalism"? When did it begin to appear?

From my observation the new broader emphasis has come in the past six to seven years.

Can you analyze some of the causes?

Well, I believe the primary cause is the sovereign moving of the Spirit in opposition to widespread wickedness and the projection of atheistic ideologies. God, in these last days, has sent this increasing downpour of His Spirit to raise up a standard against the floodtide of evil. At the same time I recognize various contributing factors. For one thing, there was a feeling of frustration in many places because of a lack of spiritual power and ability to serve the Lord effectively. Then too I think the strong proclamation of the full gospel by Pentecostal ministers on such subjects as divine healing, and the imminent return of Christ, as well as the baptism of the Holy Spirit, evoked a hunger in many hearts for a more fervent expression of some of these dynamic truths. In this connection I would say the increase in mass communications also has projected the full gospel into many circles not penetrated heretofore.

Could the ecumenical movement have influenced it in any way?

Undoubtedly the ecumenical movement has created a greater degree of tolerance toward all churches so that people have become more open to new doctrinal views. There is a greater liberty to look beyond the pale of one's own church to find satisfaction for inner spiritual

hunger. In some lands there has been a marked increase of religious freedom so that church members have actually been able to attend full-gospel churches with their own church's acquiescence and thus be introduced to the vitality of true spiritual life.

Then how would you evaluate the ecumenical movement?

Frankly I think that true scriptural ecumenicity is the end purpose of the working of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives. I believe it is the will of God that all true believers in Christ be brought together in a closer fellowship tie and a closer working relationship. We must distinguish, however, between true spiritual ecumenicity and the so-called ecumenical movement which is predicated on a structural unity between denominations, based on the least common denominator on which a basis of agreement may be achieved. I believe in spiritual ecumenicity but I do not think it can be structured by organizational procedures. Any true ecumenicity must be based on proper recognition of the authority of the Scriptures and of the nature of the Church. The true Church is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ and is made one by the presence of the Holy Spirit in its members. The ecumenicists, I fear, are trying to achieve by carnal organization that which can only be achieved by the working of the Holy Spirit in bringing believers into the true Church of Jesus Christ.

What do you expect to happen in the Neo-Pentecostal Movement? Do you think the Spirit-filled individuals in the various denominations will continue to enjoy the Spirit's blessing?

I believe the future will be determined by the attitude of these individuals, and by the teaching they receive. I am confident God will continue to lead every sincere, hungry heart into an ever-increasing fullness of His will and purpose for their lives.

When the Spirit was poured out in the early days of this century, the result was the formation of new Pentecostal groups. Do you look for the same thing to happen again as a result of Neo-Pentecostalism?

I think in some respects we have a very different

"God does not have any favorites. Wherever there is a hungry heart, God is sure to be present to meet that heart's deepest desire."



situation than existed 60 years ago. There is a different climate today. In my opinion the thing that triggered the formation of new Pentecostal movements in days gone by was that in most cases the historic churches rejected the Pentecostal witness, and those who had experienced this deeper working of God in their lives found it necessary to seek fellowship outside the regularly organized church bodies. It is a matter of record that the early Pentecostal believers had no intention of forming any new denominations. But they all shared the same glorious experience, and were seized with an inescapable sense of obligation to propagate the full gospel so they found strength in uniting their efforts. There seems to be an express desire today in a number of the historic churches to have a breadth of fellowship that will permit many of these Spirit-filled people to carry on their Pentecostal ministry within their own denominational circles. Time will tell how virile and effective the Pentecostal witness will remain within the framework of the traditional churches.

Do you think this Pentecostal revival will continue to spread? How far do you expect it to reach?

It is my fervent belief that we will see a tremendous widening of the circle of Pentecostal penetration. I base this on the fact that God said He would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. Certainly God does not have any favorites. Wherever there is a hungry heart, God is sure to be present to meet that heart's deepest desire.

A while ago you mentioned divine healing. Is there a revival of interest in this subject also?

Quite concurrent with the new emphasis on receiving the Holy Spirit with the speaking in other tongues, there has been a widespread revival of emphasis on praying for the sick. A number of churches in the old-line denominations now conduct regular services where the sick are anointed with oil and prayer for their healing is offered, according to the teachings of the New Testament.

You also mentioned the second coming of Christ. Is this doctrine spreading?

Wherever the Holy Spirit ministers in the hearts of believers there comes a deepening appreciation for the Word of God. A new hunger is created for all things that pertain to Bible doctrines and practice. The Spirit and the Word agree; thus by following the leading of the Holy Spirit we are brought to see the full spectrum of divine truth. We believe in the imminent personal return of Christ. That is, we do not believe His second coming is a thousand years or more away; we believe He is coming soon. One reason why God has poured out His Spirit upon His people is to perfect the work of grace in their hearts in anticipation of Christ's return so they will be prepared to be caught up into the air to meet Him when He comes. 

International Edition • The Pentecostal Evangel • No. 2660 • May 2, 1965

Regular edition published weekly by the Assemblies of God, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Subscription rate: \$2.50 a year in the U.S.A. • International Edition (published monthly and available only outside the U.S.A.): \$1.00 a year. • © 1965 by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Printed in the U.S.A. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Missouri. (Use the coupon on this page to request a free sample of the 32-page regular edition.)

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL



What's It All About?

This is a special "World's Fair Issue" of *The Pentecostal Evangel*, official Assemblies of God Magazine.

Perhaps you received this copy as a souvenir of your visit to the Assemblies of God booth in the Protestant Center at the New York World's Fair (above). Or perhaps you received this issue through the thoughtfulness of a friend or member of an Assemblies of God church.

In either case, we sincerely invite you to visit the Assemblies of God church in your community. If you do not know the address of the church, we will be happy to furnish it. (See the coupon below.)

Assemblies of God churches endeavor, to the best of their ability, to conform to the original teachings and New Testament. Members subscribe to the following statement of faith:

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. *We believe* that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. *We believe* in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years. *We believe* in the Blessed Hope, which is the Rapture of the Church at Christ's coming.

We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ. *We believe* that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. *We believe* that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. *We believe* that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. *We believe* in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. *We believe* in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802

Please send the items checked below.

- Instruction to help me know how to be saved.
- Helps on living a victorious Christian life.
- Address of an Assemblies of God church near me.
- Free copy of the regular 32-page "Evangel" magazine.

My name is

Address

City State Zip

THEY WERE

WHO AMONG US does not treasure the last words of some departed friend or loved one! Should we not treasure the last words Jesus gave us on earth even more?

Before going to the cross Jesus was much concerned over His disciples' welfare. He felt their sense of bereavement and promised He would not leave them comfortless (literally, orphans) but would ask the Father to send them another Comforter (Helper, Counselor, Advocate, Intercessor, Defender) to be with them and in them (John 14:16-18; 16:7).

LUKE 11:13 *he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

14 ¶ And he was casting out a devil,

The disciples knew what this meant, for Jesus had been their Comforter, Helper, and Advocate for over three years. He would continue as such in heaven (Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1), but another Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, would act for Him on earth.

On the ascension day Jesus reminded the assembled believers of this promise. The Father would send the Spirit. This would also fulfill John the Baptist's prophecy that Jesus would baptize them in the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11).

ACTS 1:5 *should not depart from Jerusalem, but the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying,

By this experience they would receive power, said Christ, and be prepared to become His witnesses not only in their native land but to the uttermost part of the earth. This Baptism was thus a vital part of God's plan for world evangelism. In fact, they were not to leave Jerusalem without this power (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4).

THE PROMISE RECEIVED

About 10 days later on the Day of Pentecost (the Jewish Feast of Weeks), the sound of a mighty wind filled the house where the believers were assembled. Tongues like fire came to rest on the heads of all. (These were signs to the Jews that this experience fulfilled the prophecies and types of the Old Testament.) Everyone present (including women and others besides the apostles) was filled with the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 2:4 *there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every

The first and immediate evidence of the Spirit's presence within came when each of the 120 began to speak "the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11) in a tongue or language not his own. This was not the result of any teaching process or by means of their own thoughts. It was the direct result of the Spirit within them articulating through their voices, lips, and tongues. All they had to do was speak out whatever came as the Spirit gave the utterance.

As the tongues continued, the sound drew a crowd from the visitors who had come to the feast from every part of the known world. They were amazed to hear the individual believers speaking in the languages of the countries from which they came. Some today try to explain this as a miracle of hearing, but the Bible emphatically makes it a miracle of utterance or speech.

THE PROMISE FOR ALL

As the crowd continued to grow, many could no longer pick out the individual speakers, and the collective sound of the variety of languages made some mock and say the believers were full of new wine. (The Greek here means an intoxicating wine made from a very sweet grape.)

ACTS 2:16,17 *For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.*

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and

But Peter, under the inspiration of the Spirit, gave an explanation. These believers, he said, were not drunk but were recipients of the experience prophesied by the prophet Joel (2:28). This was an outpouring of the Spirit for "all flesh." As God's gift and promise it was available not only to those in Peter's audience but also to their children, to those in distant lands, and to "as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39). Thus, the "whosoever will" which invites men to salvation and eternal life is followed by another "whosoever will" which invites all believers of all times and places to receive the same gift received by the 120 on the Day of Pentecost.

A CONVINCING EVIDENCE

At first, in spite of the assurance that the promise was to all, only Jewish believers received. This was due partly to the circumstances and partly to Jewish prejudice. But soon the Holy Spirit began to break down barriers and man-made lines of division.

ALL FILLED

By **STANLEY M. HORTON**

At Samaria Philip baptized believers but said nothing about the promise of the Spirit. But Peter and John did not hesitate. After praying for the Samaritans they laid their hands on them, and the Samaritans received the promised Holy Spirit. Something happened, too, for Simon the sorcerer wanted to buy the power to bestow this gift (Acts 8:15-20). Simon had already seen miracles, and it seems obvious that the sign which attracted him was the same sign which led Peter to say, on the Day of Pentecost, "This is that!"

ACTS 8:17

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them; only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the

An even greater barrier remained, the division between Jews and Gentiles. To break this down, God led Peter to Caesarea where he found a group of Gentiles gathered in the house of the Roman officer, Cornelius. While Peter was still preaching to them, God honored their faith—and the Holy Spirit fell on them. This astonished Peter and his Jewish-Christian companions, but they had to recognize this as what they knew to be the gift of the Holy Spirit: "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God" (Acts 10:46).

ACTS 10:45,46

45 And they of the circumcision which came with Peter, because that on the Gen'tiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that

Later, at Jerusalem, the other apostles and believers took issue with Peter for having fellowship with Gentiles. Though there was no wind or fire at Caesarea (these signs were never repeated in the Book of Acts), Peter declared that the Holy Spirit fell on these Gentiles "as on us at the beginning" (Acts 11:15). It was another fulfillment of the promise given by Jesus that they should be baptized in the Holy Spirit, and Peter called it the like gift (literally, the same or identical gift) as God gave them on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 11:17). In the face of this convincing evidence, the others could do nothing but glorify God.

A NECESSARY EXPERIENCE

The Book of Acts also indicates that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not only available but is also necessary

and essential. Were this not so, the apostle Paul would not have acted as he did when he found 12 believers at Ephesus who knew nothing of the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 19:2

1 He passed through the upper coasts of Asia; and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any

ACTS 19:6

5 They heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

7 And all the men were about twelve.

8 And he went into the synagogue,

After instructing them, Paul baptized them in water. But he did not stop there. He laid hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them so that they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Paul himself had received the same experience (Acts 9:17; 1 Corinthians 14:14, 15, 18). He was not satisfied to let others go without it.

So whether the Book of Acts speaks of the Spirit falling upon, coming upon, being poured out upon, or baptizing believers, it is the same gift, the same promise of the Father. We see also that the one evidence experienced by all was that of speaking in a language they had never learned, as the Spirit gave utterance.

This, of course, was only the beginning. After they were filled, the Holy Spirit continued with them working in their lives, giving them power and boldness, strengthening their consecration, and giving them victories over sin and Satan.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

The Bible records Paul's question in Acts 19:2, not only its historical interest, but also for our spiritual benefit. It still says to us, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit after having believed?" (literal translation). You can receive as easily as they did if you will give prayerful attention to the following Bible facts:

1. The promised gift is given only to believers. Be sure you fulfill the conditions of Romans 10:9, 10.
2. The gifts of God are by grace through faith. This is true not only of salvation (Ephesians 2:8), but also of the gift of the Spirit (Acts 8:20; Galatians 3:2, 14).
3. Those who received the gift had received teaching and preparation which stirred their hearts and led them to expect something from God. "Search the Scriptures!"
4. Those who received were already obeying God in their daily lives (Acts 5:32).
5. To these we may add the command of Jesus, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find." Jesus said this as He pointed us to a Heavenly Father who is more ready to give us the Spirit than we are to receive (Luke 11:9, 13). He waits only for our faith and desire, for He will not waste His best gifts by giving them to anyone who does not really want them.

DO YOU WANT TO LOVE PEOPLE? Not just tolerate them, but surround them with an unselfish, creative love that will challenge their very best? *Grow* love.

Do you want peace—peace that soaks into every pocket of panic bringing with it a new understanding of your problems in relation to the sovereignty of God? Peace *grows*.

Are you driven by an appetite too fierce to harness? *Plant* self-control.

Unbelievable? Does it sound like some far-out science that makes the cornea transplant seem like child's play? Never. The word is *plant*—not transplant. And the outcome is not a new science but a new heredity.

There's more! Perhaps your marriage mocks you by its emptiness, but because too many dear and innocent people also have a stake in it—to say nothing of the vows you made—you cannot escape. Faithfulness is another expression of the *implanted* fruit of the Spirit.

And joy. As compared to the exquisite excitement of fleeting happiness, this joy is a broad-shouldered masculine emotion that stays shipside at the helm of your consciousness in every squall. It *grows* too, very vigorously. "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

There are three more. If you have found your own brand of pseudo-goodness to be entirely unreliable as I have, you will be delighted to know that true goodness is also a quality of the many-splendored *growth* called the fruit of the Spirit. So are longsuffering and gentleness—so urgently wished for when doors close crisply behind awkward, ugly words and interminable hours must be faced before loved ones return.

No fruit is produced for itself. If you will pardon the language, the fruit of the Spirit is something *other* people can get their teeth into! This is no airy-fairy concept of human relationships. The fruit of the Spirit

IF NATURAL HEREDITY POSES A PROBLEM FOR YOU
THERE'S A SPIRITUAL SOLUTION—A NEW HEREDITY.



A MATTER OF HEREDITY

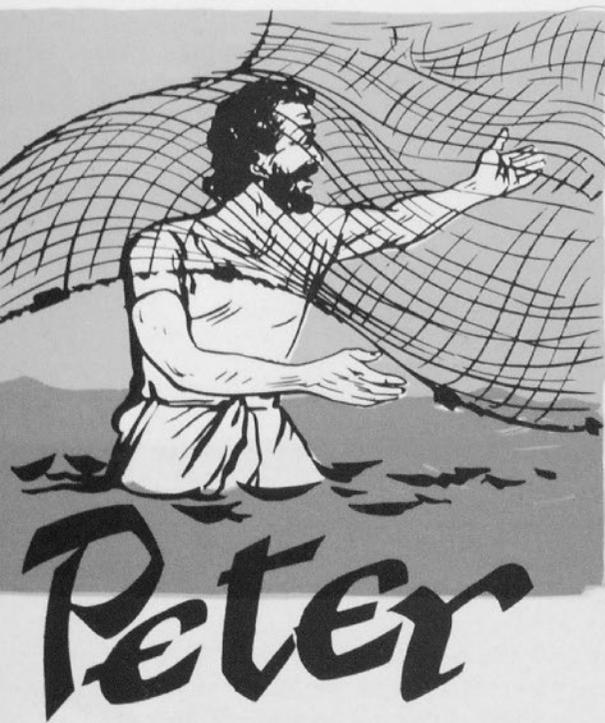
By MARY J. TREGENZA

is an attainable expression of a divine dimension of living—through you!

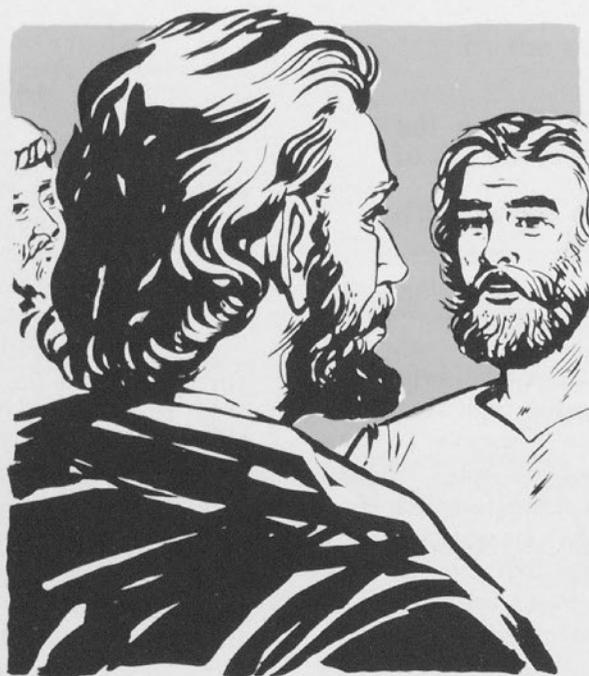
Here is God's answer in depth for a lot of questions. Like this one, "Why doesn't God *do* something about the hate, the sorrow, and the bitterness that scar individual and international relationships?" Opiates and temporary pain relievers have never been God's answer. He speaks to the heart of a matter. In Jesus Christ He said, "I am come that they might have life [a life characterized by love, joy, peace, gentleness, etc.], and have it more abundantly." True to His word, this miracle growth begins when we believe just that, with all of its redemptive implications.

Right from the start the productiveness of this growth will depend on your permission. But that is all you can supply. Only as you lay bare the inner tissues of your being to invite God's forgiveness and cleansing can a divine act implant it. And only as you give it the nod at every crisis can it extend itself where human love and longsuffering and self-control would utterly fail.

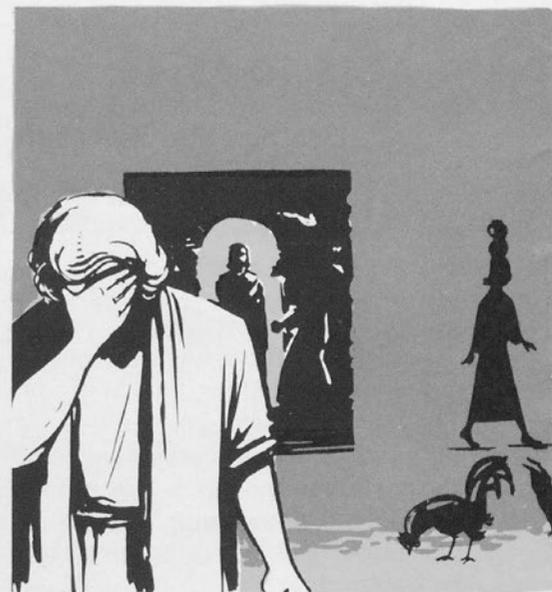
Our generation lives with a sense of history. When did this amazing personality growth of the Spirit first appear



I AM PETER THE FISHERMAN. When He called, I dropped my nets from calloused hands, and smelling still of fish, I followed.



Unlearned we were. But oh, how He tutored us. He spoke mysteries, and opened blind eyes. He scourged the money changers, and forgave sinners. Forgave sinners! And showed us all what sinners we were.



Then He began to talk of death. Dark talk. I swore I would die with Him. And I would. But how can you defend One who spurns defense? What kind of king, with angels at his command, would stand silent to be taken by nightraiders? That girl galled me by her taunts. I swore I never knew Him. Buffeted by their blows, spittle dripping from His face. He turned and fixed His eyes on me. My God—what had I done?

clothed with our humanity? The fact is, man was originally endowed with these virtues. When he stepped forth from the creative hand of God, he was indeed perfect and headed for even greater perfection by a series of moral choices.

Adam was not banned from Eden and God's immediate presence because he ate an apple. It was because he violated a prearranged moral agreement God had symbolized for him in the fruit of that certain tree. The necessary alternative: "In the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die."

Post-Eden existence certainly was a form of death. "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, adaptability, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22, 23; Phillips translation) in divine dimension became impossible when the Holy Spirit left the human spirit. Soon their counterparts scarred and darkened human history: hate, sorrow, war, bitterness, cruelty, evil, faithlessness, defiance, and dissipation. This is the story of our humanity.

But there is another chapter. One day in Bethlehem of Judea, a Spirit-implanted life came forth in the person of Jesus Christ. Reverently speaking, the life of Jesus Christ was—and is to this very hour—the fruit of the Spirit.

The Bethlehem of history has become the Bethlehem of experience in the occasion of countless *spiritual* births, since Jesus Christ was both physically and spiritually the Fruit of the Spirit in the womb of Mary. And each subsequent "son" finds within himself the potential of the same "family likeness" in beyond-human dimensions of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, adaptability, and self-control.

This is why God has every right to say to His new sons, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). He has im-

planted the means of perfection in His own quality of life—the fruit of the Spirit.

Do not confuse the fruit of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) with the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), though there is a vital connection. The baptism of the Spirit is not *growth* but *gift*. It dilates the spirit of the believer for worship, empowers it for witness, and helps him understand more fully every other work of grace in his life. That Jesus Christ becomes more real (John 15:26) and God's Word becomes more understandable (John 16:17) are matters of undebatable testimony and experience.

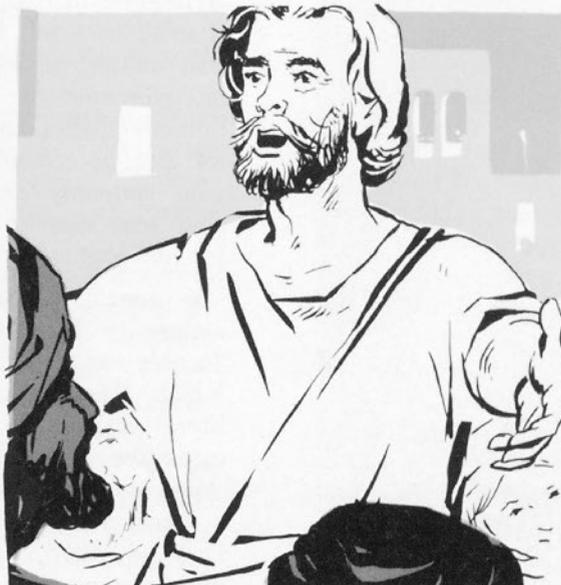
When Jesus Christ introduced His Father as One who would act as a Husbandman to "prune" the Christian of all superfluous growth, He was not referring to this growth of the Spirit but rather its opposite. Vying for prominence in every life is the natural life-force, spoken of as the life of the flesh. The presence and constant patronage of this opposite growth explains the obvious shortage of the fruit of the Spirit, *as well as the number of God's sub-perfect sons*. Paul the apostle accused entire congregations of Christian men and women for failing to mature the fruit of the Spirit—Christ-likeness—in their lives.

Does the idea of *growing* these urgently-needed virtues seem too slow for your particular dilemma? Don't go away. The creative power of God can implant in your life today the same life that empowered His own Son. *This is the story of a brand-new humanity*. It is made possible through a personal act of faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The creative power of God will plant a new heredity with deep dimensions of love, joy, peace, and gentleness in your life this very hour *if you covet it enough to meet His terms*.

It all depends on the italicized words!



I ran to the empty tomb, and though some who saw Him said He spoke my name, I had no heart left in me. I was little better than Judas who had hanged himself. Peter the fisherman—after three mistaken years—back to the nets. And even here a failure. Then He came again, just as before, and with the same sweet words He called, "Follow Me."



We followed. To the mountaintop we followed, where He left us with words of promise. It was power that He promised. It was power we received, gathered in the upper room. My thoughts went back to that first call. "I'll make you fishers of men," He had said. Now, standing before the crowd, I cast the first net by the power of the Spirit, and thousands believed.



Ah—how well He knew when He bade me put away the feeble sword I had lifted to defend Him. He saw beyond my cowardice that awful night. He saw what was to be. Scarce two months later, armed with the Sword of the Spirit, I stood before the Sanhedrin that had taunted Him. We spoke words with holy inspiration that cut them to the heart. And though they threatened, we rejoiced, and ceased not to preach Christ Jesus. —L.N.C.



JACOB'S NEW NAME

Next Week's Sunday School Lesson

GENESIS 32:9-12; 24-30

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

MORE THAN 20 YEARS had passed since Jacob's youthful experience of a revelation of God at a place called Bethel. In spite of it, he had never really made a full surrender to God. His years of service to Laban, his father-in-law, marked him out still a schemer, conniver, and a man who depended more on his own ingenuity than upon God.

1. *Jacob's Crisis* (Genesis 32:1-8). Esau... cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him." What terror the messenger's news struck into the heart of Jacob! At last his past seemed to be catching up with him in the form of the brother whom he had wronged.

2. *Jacob's Prayer* (Genesis 32:9-12). "O God... I am not worthy of the least of all thy mercies... Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of Esau... and thou saidst, I will surely do thee good." It is a good thing in any time of crisis to pray as Jacob did. While it is true he was interested in "saving his own skin," his prayer did contain three attitudes that God is always pleased to

hear. He realized his unworthiness; he had a real concern for the welfare of his loved ones; and he dealt with the Lord on the basis of His Word.

But because he was Jacob, he still endeavored to work out his problem by human diplomacy. He had prayed, but he would still use every human means as well.

3. *Jacob's Solitude*. "And Jacob was left alone." Why did Jacob choose solitude on this terrible night? We can only guess. It may be that Jacob, realizing the danger, sent his family across the brook and stayed behind alone in order to take every possible precaution. He would stand guard and do without sleep in readiness for any emergency. Although Jacob may not have realized it, he must in the final analysis settle the great spiritual issues of his life alone—with God. This is true of us all.

4. *Jacob's Struggle*. Suddenly, out of the night, a mysterious assailant laid hold of Jacob. "And there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day." Thinking the visitor was one of Esau's men, Jacob wrestled with all his might. Let us not misunderstand the significance of this. This scene is often used to illustrate someone "wrestling with God" in prayer. The Bible says, "There wrestled a man with him."

The fact is, God was the Challenger. God was endeavoring to bring Jacob to the end of self-trust and confidence in his own resourcefulness. It was God's design to teach Jacob that Esau was not to be overcome by flattery or diplomacy. The victory God promises comes by divine grace and power. This God would have each of us learn.

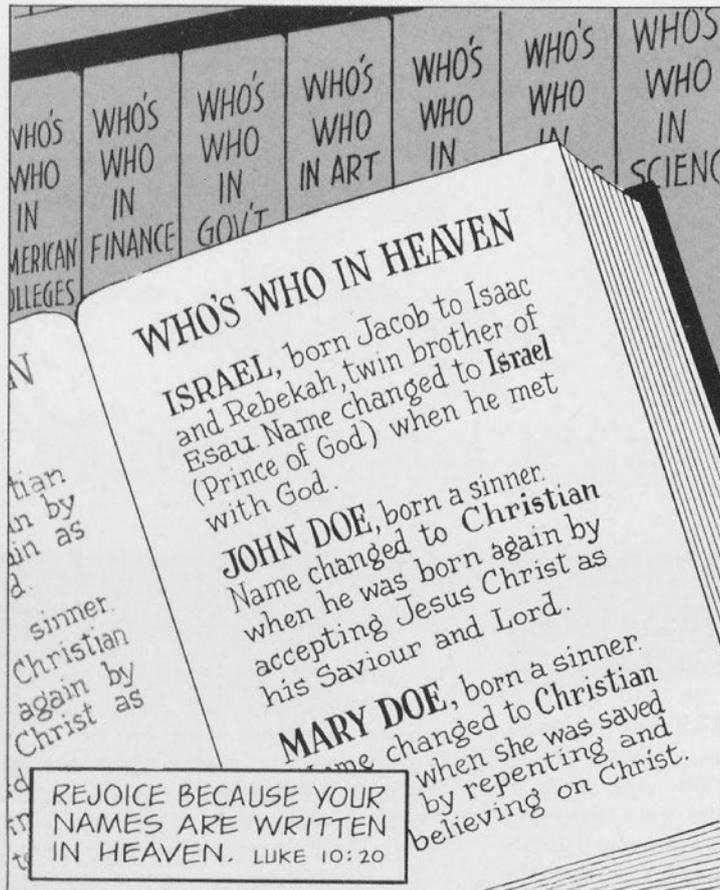
5. *Jacob's Helplessness* (Genesis 32:25). It took a supernatural intervention to reduce Jacob's ego. The angel touched his hip and made him lame. This touch caused Jacob to realize that his supposed enemy was in reality a divine being and in an instant he went from struggling to clinging. At last he realized what God had desired to teach him years before: that Esau—and for that matter, all of life's threats and dangers—could only be overcome by God's grace and power and not by human devices and psychology. Jacob's cry, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me," is the cry of a man who suddenly realizes his own helplessness, but who also sees clearly that God has supernatural assistance for him and is determined to have it!

6. *Jacob's Transformation* (Genesis 32:26-30). In response to Jacob's declaration, the divine visitor asked Jacob's name. "And he said, Jacob." There is a sense in which this may be considered a confession, for the literal translation of the name meant *supplanter*. Then came the gracious announcement: "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel [God's prince]: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." How Jacob must have treasured this night's experience even though it crippled him for the rest of his life!

The changing of Jacob's name indicated the change of character that took place within him when he transferred his future destiny from his own shoulders to God's. Having met God he was prepared to meet Esau. "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

It is always so. A transformation comes to every man who meets God face to face.

WHERE IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN?



Without regard to country, creed, or color, God is pouring out His Spirit . . .

UPON ALL FLESH



PRAY FOR POLAND! We have never seen such fertile opportunities." Recently Theodore Maksymowicz, general treasurer of the United Evangelical Church of Poland, surprised us with these words when he visited our Assemblies of God headquarters in Springfield, Missouri.

"I am like the Macedonian man of Paul's vision," he said, "who came to Paul pleading, crying, begging, beseeching, imploring: come to our help in any way you can. The greatest way is to pray."

The Spirit of God is moving in eastern Europe. According to Pastor Maksymowicz, 70 percent of the evangelicals in Poland have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. He and two others of the six leaders of the United Evangelical Church are Pentecostal.

How exciting to learn of the sovereign move of the Holy Spirit in countries such as Poland. This is the hour when the Holy Spirit is expressing Himself in many ways and in many places. J. P. Hogan, our foreign missions executive director, states: "In every major city in the world there already exists a nucleus of Pentecostal believers who are praying for a general outpouring of the Holy Spirit." In Dakar, Senegal; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Paramaribo, Surinam; the Marshall Islands; Georgetown, British Guiana; and in many other cities recent developments confirm this.

Today the fulness of the Holy Spirit is being experienced by members of Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Reformed, and many other historic churches. Pentecost is penetrating Poland and Paraguay, Tanzania and Taiwan, Nigeria and Nicaragua, Assam and Argentina. The Holy Spirit passes over the iron curtain, the bamboo curtain, or the sugar cane curtain. He is sovereign. Wherever there is a need and a hungry person, He pours Himself into that need.

There is a change in individuals when they are filled with the Holy Spirit as were the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. Humble Africans rise from animistic fears and superstitions to become bold witnesses. Orientals

who have walked out of the maze of millions of gods into the life of simple trust in Christ learn that the Spirit within them becomes a river of spiritual power.

* * *

Cho Yonggi, copastor of the Assemblies of God Evangelistic Center in Seoul, Korea testifies:

"I was born and grew up in a Buddhist home. As soon as I learned to speak, my father taught me how to pray to Buddha. And in Buddhist philosophy he taught me there is no reality in the world—no death, no life, no joy, no sorrow. Everything is illusion and nothing is real. Every morning my father called our family together. We knelt down and prayed, swinging our bodies and saying, 'There is nothing; there is nothing—no sorrow, no reality—nothing.'

"Then one day an American GI, stationed in Korea, was preaching the gospel on the street side while I was passing. This GI—full of the Holy Spirit—was preaching fervently, asking who wanted to be saved. I was one of those who accepted his invitation to step forward. He pointed to a spot and said, 'Kneel down, brother.'

"'What to do?'

"'To be saved.'

"Then he knelt down beside me and taught me to pray the sinner's prayer. I knew I was saved then. I knew that Christ came into my heart. That GI led me to the Assemblies of God mission in Pusan. As soon as I stepped into the church room I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!"

Later, very sick and dying of tuberculosis, he had a remarkable vision.

"I saw the Lord," he says, "and I said to Him, 'Yes, Jesus, I will preach your gospel.' I tried to touch His feet. As soon as I touched His clothes, what seemed like a thousand volts of electricity flowed into me and I began to shake. Then strange words came to my mouth and I began to speak in other tongues. When I awakened from this vision, I was a changed man. Right away I went to the hospital and had X-ray pictures

taken. There was no sign of my tuberculosis at all! Hallelujah!"

* * *

From Enugu, Nigeria, we have received this interesting testimony by Christopher U. Okkiyi. He reports:

"It was at the Assemblies of God Church in my home town that I was filled with the Holy Spirit. Pastor Eben I. Eborgu preached from Acts 2. I asked myself if I was not included in this promise. I responded to the invitation for those who wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit to come to the altar. I prayed and poured out my heart, asking God to fill me with power to live a Christian, victorious life.

"Soon I began to speak in a language no one else there could understand but God. A new joy came as I conversed with Jesus in this new language. I prayed so deep with this new tongue that I wanted to go to heaven that day. I had an unbeatable joy.

"When I got up from the prayer, I had a new strength, new zeal, and began to adore the Lord more than before. Oh, I love to commune with Him often.

"The Holy Spirit gives me power to overcome sin and reminds me to get ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the factory where I work, the Holy Spirit gives me the boldness to speak even to my bosses. I am nicknamed 'pastor,' which of course I am not."

* * *

Gustavo Interiano, a young Bible student in Guatemala, was filled with the Holy Spirit. Wherever he goes he preaches this message—trusting God to work with him as He worked with the apostles, and to confirm the message "with signs following." As a result, more than three thousand believers have received the Holy Spirit in the last two years.

Gustavo started his first meetings in a little back-hills church which he reached by burro. He arrived saying, "God sent me." As he preached, the Lord began to pour His Spirit upon the people. More than 30 were filled.

Recently it was my privilege to visit one of these churches where the Spirit had been outpoured. It was located in the high country near the border of El Salvador. In four days of almost continuous services, 116 people were baptized with the Holy Spirit. Long after Gustavo had gone on to other meetings, this church was having meetings every night. The Saturday night attendance was equal to that of Sunday morning or Sunday night.

There was an electric joy in the faces of the people.

Their music was inspired and filled with the presence of God. Men and women testified to great changes in their lives, their homes, and their town.

Today all of Latin America is throbbing with the pulse of Pentecostal power. *Time* magazine recently reported 1,400,000 Pentecostals in Brazil alone.

With the witness of hundreds like Cho Yonggi, Gustavo Interiano, and Theodore Maksymowicz, the promise of the Father is becoming a reality in all the earth. All of this points clearly to the nearness of the Lord's return. For He promised, "In the last days . . . I will pour out my Spirit upon *all flesh*." 

BABY HEALED OF SERIOUS BRAIN INFECTION

OUR GOD IS GOOD! EVEN WHEN DOCTORS HAVE DONE all they can, God still answers prayer and heals us.

When our son Nathan was six months old, he became suddenly and violently ill. His temperature began to climb and his limbs jerked abnormally. We prayed for him and the next day he showed signs of improvement. But by Sunday he grew much worse.

Late Tuesday evening Nathan began to have one convulsion after another. We were pastoring the Assembly of God in Stephenville, Tex., at that time and the church folk gathered at the parsonage to pray for our baby son. My wife was on the verge of a nervous collapse. Tormented with fear, she could only envision the child lying in a casket.

It seemed as if the convulsions would tear his little life from him. In the emergency room of the hospital the doctor shook his head. "He's only here on the mercies of prayer," he said.

During the examination the baby showed no signs of consciousness. The doctor prescribed several shots, glucose, and a blood transfusion. Alcohol baths were also ordered. When he was given a spinal tap the next day, we learned he had a very serious brain infection. The doctor told us to continue praying.

And we did pray. Our sectional presbyter, ministerial friends, and many churches stood with us. Some around-the-clock prayer meetings were held. Someone, somewhere reached out and touched the Lord for our need. God heard and answered prayer.

Nathan began to make slow improvement and after two weeks his fever was regulated. When we took him home from the hospital, the doctor gave us no hope of his future condition being normal. Four days after bringing him home Nathan laughed aloud as his older sister played with him. This was the first sign we had that he could see, hear, or sense anything around him.

Our baby began to climb back to complete recovery. There were times of discouragement and anxiety, but today Nathan—almost four—walks, talks, runs, and enjoys life as much as any child his age. He is a living testimony to God's power to deliver from sickness and disease. Without that power he wouldn't be alive today. —Pastor Coyce O. Pollard, Liberty Tabernacle Assembly of God, Fort Worth, Tex. 



Walking with the WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday—Psalms 49, 50
Monday—John 18
Tuesday—John 19
Wednesday—John 20

Thursday—John 21
Friday—Acts 1
Saturday—Psalm 51
Sunday—Psalms 52, 53

ARE YOU READY?



THE RETURN OF CHRIST WILL BRING TO PUBLIC VIEW THE SEPARATION THAT ALREADY EXISTS WITHIN PEOPLE'S LIVES

OUR LORD JESUS TOLD US that one day He will come back to earth to take His people to be with Him. He said that when He comes there shall be two men working side by side in the field: "The one shall be taken and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left" (Matthew 24:40, 41).

There will be a sudden and distinct separation between persons. One moment they were working side by side in the field, or in the kitchen; the next moment they are separated.

The return of Christ will bring to public view the separation that already exists within people's lives. Two men may be doing the same job in a factory, side by side, linked together by a common task, and yet there

may be a great difference between their hearts. The one man's heart is attached to a job, a salary, an earthly life; the other man's heart is attached to his Lord. When the heavenward pull comes, the one who is attached to the things of this world will remain, as though fastened with a chain; while the other man, whose heart is linked to Christ, will respond to the upward pull. One shall be taken, the other left.

Perhaps you say, "That is arbitrary; it is unfair." But suppose you reverse the order, letting the worldly man be taken and the spiritual man be left. The one taken would be in misery and in terror. He would find himself in the presence of the Lord with no "wedding garment" and the shame of his nakedness would appear. He would beg to be allowed to go back to his worldly affairs.

The one left would be even worse off. He would be in deep sorrow for having missed his Lord. Worldly things would seem to him more earthly, more drab, more distasteful than ever before.

Christ said, "Be ye also ready." The men and women who are ready will be taken; those who are not ready will be left behind. Who will be to blame? Not Christ, for He has given clear warning to all, saying, "Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 22:44). Are you acting on His advice or are you rejecting it?

Suppose a train is scheduled to depart at a certain hour. A would-be passenger is delayed with what he considers "most pressing business." The time arrives for the train's departure. The train is ready but the would-be passenger is not. He is left behind.

He sees the train pull out of the station, and his friend who has caught the train is waving to him. The man is angry with himself. Does he blame the conductor or the engineer of the train? No. Does he blame his watch or the clock at the station? No, he knows it was his own fault. The train was ready, and the passengers who were ready went on it. Those who were not ready were left behind.

That is what happened in the days of Noah. The ark was ready, and all who wished to enter the ark were invited to do so. The door of the ark was shut on time, the rains descended on time, and the ark floated on the waters. All who accepted the invitation to "come into the ark" were saved. The rest were drowned. No doubt some people came to the ark after the door was shut and begged for admittance, but they were too late. The rain of God's judgment had already begun to fall.

Christ warned us that, as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the day of His return. The hour of opportunity will not last forever. Man must seek the Lord while He may be found.

How can you be ready? By responding to the Saviour's invitation, "Come unto Me." Ask Him to forgive your sins and to cleanse your life through His atoning Blood. Turn away from all that is sinful and fix your affection on spiritual things. Ask God to fill you and keep you filled with the Holy Spirit. Feast your mind and heart on the Word of the Lord until your primary interest is in heavenly things, not earthly things. It lies within your choice to be either the one who is taken or the one who is left. You alone decide whether or not you will be ready.

LED BY THE SPIRIT

By RICHARD E. ORCHARD

THERE IS A RACE ON earth called "the sons of God." These are not strange people who came down from heaven, but ordinary men and women who have been adopted into the family of God. Once they were dead in trespasses and sins, but they responded to the Holy Spirit's call to repent, which is extended to everyone, and new life came into them—the life of God.

The term "son" is applied to Christ in a unique sense, for He is the only begotten Son of God. But it is also applied to people who follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8: 14).

And, conversely, those who are not led by the Spirit of God cannot claim to be His sons.

The Spirit first leads us to Christ, the Saviour, and then He begins His work of conforming us to the likeness of Christ, which is His ultimate goal for all God's sons. He is concerned at all times with making us the kind of person Christ would be if He were living in our situation.

Here is the glory of the Spirit-filled life: that a farmer can become like Jesus without leaving his occupation; that a businessman can glorify God in his business; that a statesman can be led by the Spirit even as Daniel was divinely led in the political labyrinth of Babylon; that a housewife doing her repetitious chores can show

forth the loveliness of Christ. All of this is possible by the working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of people who are "sons of God."

The Holy Spirit will lead us into a knowledge of the truth. Without the Spirit's help we never could understand the Bible, for "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: . . . neither can he know them, for they are spiritually discerned." Neither could we enter into a knowledge of the love of God. The Bible says, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost," or Holy Spirit. Happy is that man or woman who has accepted Christ as personal Saviour and been made a son of God in whom the Holy Spirit can dwell.

There is no area of earthly life where the Holy Spirit cannot profitably be our guide. One man said, "I never let my business and my religion interfere with each other." I pity that man. He has not learned the joy of being led of the Spirit in his daily affairs. God knows what is best for a man's business as well as for his time of worship.

At the close of a church meeting in a town I visited, I noticed a man praying very earnestly at the altar. After he had continued praying for some time, I asked the pastor about him. The pastor said, "That man is a highly successful businessman in this town. He never makes an important business venture without first bringing it to the altar and seeking God's guidance." That is the attitude of a true son of God.

The Holy Spirit will abide with us constantly as our companion, as well as our guide. A child, lost in the streets of a large city, asked a policeman for direction. The policeman tried to explain the way. Then he realized the child could not possibly remember all his directions, so he took the child's hand and said, "Just come with me." His instructions only confused the child, but his presence gave certain guidance. This is the way the Spirit leads us.

It is very important for a young Christian, especially, to learn the value of divine guidance. Happy is he who submits his plans for a career to God for His approval or rejection, and then abides by His direction.

In the matter of choosing a life companion, the Holy Spirit will give guidance if invited to help. All of life is richer and sweeter when the Spirit's leadership is sought and followed. God has a wonderful plan for every life. He knows what lies ahead. He knows how to make us happy. He will lead us day by day; but we must obey or we will frustrate God's perfect plan.

I read of a man who was traveling through a thick

LISTEN TO
Revivaltime
Radio Voice of the Assemblies of God

C. M. WARD
SPEAKER

Heard weekly on more than 430 stations in the U.S.A. and abroad. ABC Radio Network.

THE BROADCAST IS PRODUCED IN NEW RADIO AUDITORIUM.

WRITE FOR FREE RADIO LOG
REVIVALTIME • Box 70 • Springfield, Mo. 65801

forest. He had a compass but for a long time he did not look at it, for he felt he knew the woods very well. When eventually he took it out, he was surprised to find he was going east when he thought he was going west! His first impulse was to throw the compass away. "It must be wrong," he thought, "I know I am going in the right direction." But on second thought he said to himself, "No, this compass has never failed me before; I will trust it now." So he changed directions and reached his destination safely.

Sometimes we are tempted to follow our own inclinations instead of doing what God shows us is right. The Bible says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." The only safe course is to obey the Holy Spirit. He will never lead us to do anything foolish. His guidance will always agree with the teachings of the Bible. He will lead us into a life of holiness, a life that is free from sin. He will lead us into a holy intimacy with Jesus Christ—a devotional life in which the Lord Jesus becomes more real and more precious than any earthly person. He will lift us out of the emptiness and lifelessness of mere religious form into the glory and vitality of New Testament Christianity.

This is the Spirit-filled life, a life in which we are led by the Spirit, taught by the Spirit, and energized with the life that dwells in the sons of God.

It is the Holy Spirit who reproves us of sin and draws us to God. He applies the merits of Calvary to

cleanse our hearts through the precious blood of Christ. The Spirit then "bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Oh, what a blessing it is to have the Spirit with us always! He helps us in prayer when "we know not what we should pray for as we ought." And He leads us "into all truth," projecting our hope into the glorious future by showing us "things to come."

Say it carefully to yourself, "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Does he lead you? To be led implies that one is following. And to be led by the Spirit of God is to be led in the right way, "the way everlasting." 

WHEN THE LOGS JAM

Did you ever see logs jam on a river? They collect and pile up behind the first one that snags. Soon a dam is formed. But the loggers are watching, and the moment that key log is pulled free the rest come spilling after it.

You are like that key log as you pause uncertainly in the midstream of life. Seeing your hesitation, others slow down. One life backs up against another. And so it goes. How many lives are waiting on you right now?

Only the Master knows. If you will let Him pull you free, you may have the surprise of your life! You may find scores following after you into the full tides of blessing.

—Personal Christianity

Significant Books on THE HOLY SPIRIT

GLOSSOLALIA IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, by William G. MacDonald. All those who seek a deeper understanding of the phenomenon of speaking in tongues will find this scholarly little book at once informative and illuminating. The author uses the original language of the New Testament throughout as the background of his penetrating analysis. Every Pentecostal leader should have at hand this compact, concise reference work on this Pentecostal distinctive. Paper bound, 20 pages. **2 EV 508 50c**

THE SPIRIT HIMSELF, by R. M. Riggs. A "must" for all who believe the experience and gifts of the Holy Spirit, for in this book the distinctive doctrines of the Church are set forth. The author has ably unfolded the teaching concerning the person of the Holy Spirit, His names, offices, administrations, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, His gifts and ministries to the Church. Valuable for individual instruction as well as in study classes. Cloth bound, 208 pages. **2 EV 590 \$2.50**

CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS, by Donald Gee. In this book, a study of the supernatural working of God in the Early Church, some rather startling conclusions are drawn. The author demonstrates that God has never withdrawn His gifts, but intends that they should be a normal part of the functioning of His Church until Jesus comes. Clearly and persuasively the ministry of each gift is outlined, providing rich reward for the seeker after these truths. Paper bound, 119 pages. **2 EV 486 \$1.35**

"WHAT MEANETH THIS?" by Carl Brumback. Here in a single, comprehensive volume is what the Pentecostal Movement believes about "speaking with other tongues." It will provide the information so long desired by non-Pentecostal friends, and will remove many obstacles from the minds of those who have opposed this part of the Pentecostal message. **2 EV 626 \$3.00**

THE HOLY SPIRIT. The thirteen lessons in this manual constitute a systematic and comprehensive program of study on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Lessons include: His Nature, In the Old Testament, In the New Testament, His Ministries, the Baptism in the Spirit, The Initial Evidence, The Gifts, Sins Against the Spirit. One of the "Great Themes of the Christian Faith" series.

32 EV 200 Student's Manual, by Ralph W. Harris **25c**
32 EV 100 Teacher's Manual, by Frank M. Boyd **60c**



Gospel Publishing House

1445 BOONVILLE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802
OR - 239 EAST COLORADO BOULEVARD, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101
POSTPAID IN U.S.A. PRICES OUTSIDE THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES SLIGHTLY HIGHER

HOPELESSLY IN DEBT!

all thy ways, hast thou not glorified." The warning has been posted for a long time. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that *forget* God." Forgetfulness is a debt that piles up quickly.

There are those whose sins injure many others. A great influence is used in a wrong way. Jesus implied there are some with enormous debts to God—" . . . which owed him ten thousand talents."

What can a man do to meet this obligation? What can he offer to God? "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." A man can claim no credit there. Can he give the rain, the sunshine, even life itself back to God?

The only solution is forgiveness. This is the sweetest note in seraph's song. Jesus struck the same note in Luke 7, verses 41 and 42, when He told the story of a man who had two debtors. One owed him 500 pence and the other 50. He forgave them both. Whether our debt is great or small, God will forgive. And as Jesus said to Peter, the person who is forgiven the most will love the most.

Listen to His words, "And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them." What music to a sinner's ear! Are you worried because you cannot pay? Have you despaired because you are morally bankrupt? As long as you think you can make it by yourself, there is no hope for you.

Salvation is asking for help. "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Pride can close the prison doors of hell on you. A plea for grace can set you free. Tell God now that you cannot pay. Tell Him there is no way in your power whereby you can undo the past. Throw yourself on His mercy.

You have a right to confidently expect forgiveness. God does not ignore the debt. He forgives it. Every Christian will always be a forgiven debtor. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

This is the only move open to you, sinner! You are hopelessly in debt. But if you ask God's forgiveness He will forgive your debt. A forgiven person is ready for heaven. Believe this as your life depends upon it: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Ask for mercy while you can. 

BY C. M. WARD
International Radio Evangelist

I HAVE READ MANY descriptions of salvation but the story in Matthew 18, verses 23 to 27, seems to sum it up better than any other.

Here is a servant who owes the king 10,000 talents. (If a silver talent is equivalent to \$1,940 as some scholars think, he owes \$19,400,000.) The king orders him to pay up. The poor fellow confesses, "I can't pay." So the king commands that he be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he has, to satisfy the debt.

Then the servant falls down before the king and pleads abjectly for days of grace. "Have patience with me," he says, "and I will pay it all." (If such an offer seems ridiculous in view of the hugeness of the debt, let me remind you that the immensity of man's debt to God is even greater!)

But there is a surprising turn of events. The king suddenly has a change of heart. He is moved with compassion. He sets the servant free. He actually forgives all the man's great debt!

Why did Jesus tell this story? I believe it was to impress on us three great truths. First, each of us is deeply in debt. Second, we have nothing to pay. Third, the only way out of our dilemma is to throw ourselves on the mercy of God.

Sin is a *debt*. Some are more deeply in debt than others. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required." Some sin against the clearest light. They were raised in gospel homes by parents who pressed the claims of Christ upon them.

Some, like Nebuchadnezzar, have been withholding from God what is due to Him. Daniel said to him, "The God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are

