

## "Receiving the Holy Spirit"

Scripture Lesson:- Acts 19: 1 - 7

Introduction:- We are to study the coming of the Holy Spirit. This is not an exhaustive study. All that we intend to do is to set forth the "need" of receiving the Holy Spirit, in order that Christians may pray intelligently and earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We see that Paul asked the twelve Ephesians whether they had received the Holy Spirit "since ye believed." They replied, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit." They had received the baptism of John unto repentance, but not the Christian baptism with water, nor yet the baptism of Him, who John said would come after him and would baptise with fire and with the Spirit. Both these baptisms they promptly received under the ministry of Paul.

Paul evidently considered the receiving of the Holy Spirit a requisite to a satisfactory experience and efficient service.

1. Love of the Divine Word. A love for it. Not a belief in or a defense of it, but a "love" of it. In Psalm 119 the author speaks of his "delights" in the Word, nine times of his love for it, and many times of its excellencies, - "Sweeter than honey", "better than the thousands of gold", "a hiding place", and a "shield", and "everlasting". Do you love the Word as he did. Do you read it from a sense of pleasure or duty.

2. "A happy life of prayer". The question is not "do you pray", of course you do, but the question is "do you live a life of prayer". An Indian convert said, "I used to pray three times a day, but now I pray only once, that is, all day". He was not upon his knees all day, but the consciousness of self-commitment unto God was abiding. His soul attitude toward God had become fixed.

3. A pure, unselfish life. There is little efficiency, and no satisfaction in any other life. Time is the shuttle which swiftly weaves the ~~kr~~

pattern of life. How does the product look to you: to others: To God: Are the goods all wool and of standard width:

4. Peace and Joy. Is your "like a river: Does it "pass understanding". Is it His peace: Is your joy full: Unspeakable: Is it steady in tribulation:

5. Power. This is another essential of a satisfactory and efficient Christian life. Power to "resist the evil one", "to conquer self", power to persuade men, Power to run on to stand still, to sing his praises or be silent.

Note, all five of these things came to the apostles with the baptism of the Spirit. They can be obtained no other way today. It is the specific office of the Spirit to mature these graces, and there can be no substitute for Him.

I would have you to note also, that He is here, in the world, and would dwell within you. How do you yet receive Him: Precisely as the disciples did, by obeying Christ's twofold command to, "go" and to "tarry".

There is such a thing as growing stale in religion. Let us have a balancing of our spiritual affairs, that we may receive "the fullness of the Spirit."