

Warrington

4/25/65

The Coming of the Spirit

Mr. Oct. 28 11:00 AM

Scripture Lesson:-

Luke 24: 36 to end. Bailey 10/28/58

Text:-

Introduction:- A Christian writer notes that all genuine living Christians have three important elements. First, there is the mind; we must have a reasonable belief in God. Then there is the will; we must be obedient disciples of the will of God as revealed to us in the example of Jesus Christ. We must also be possessed of the Spirit of God; our whole nature must be filled with the very life of God. The Spirit of God transforms and fills us with the inexhaustible abundance and makes bold and fearless and confident, instead of weaklings.

It was precisely that which took place in the lives of the early Christians, when on the first Pentecost, they were brought so powerfully under the control and direction of the Spirit of God. Then it was that the Holy Spirit, as our text expresses it, wrote his own marks, the marks of Christ upon them. They became, in a new measure, "epistles of Christ", read and known of men

What are the marks of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian:

I.

Well, for one thing, He is known as the Spirit of TRUTH. In John 15: 26 Jesus says: "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me". And in the following chapter occurs this statement, "When he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."

Andrew Murray in his excellent book called the Spirit of Christ, has a chapter in which he reminds us of two trees in the Garden of Eden, the tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge. Of the tree of Life man was to eat, but not of the tree of Knowledge. Now why Life before Knowledge:



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ter to the Romans where he speaks of Christ's resurrection as having been wrought by the Holy Spirit. "Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom:1:4)

For Christians there should never be serious problem over such blatant, easily labelled sins as lying or stealing or drunkenness. Most of us are all keyed up to denounce these evil things and to stay away from them. But the Spirit of holiness is never content to keep us out of such mischief. He searches and probes and convicts in those inner pockets of the soul where hidden evils lie. Take pride for example. What is pride? It is an infection of the carnal heart. If you want to detect it in yourself, catch yourself at the business of craving praise and flattery, while you become depressed and irritated over criticism and disapproval. That pride needs to die, or else the full glory of your Lord will never be seen in you. Or take that peevish temper, or that pushy stubborn self-will, or that mean stinginess, or that smug complacency and lukewarmness of Spirit, do you think that these are not sin in the eyes of God?

*In time of stress + problems use your religion. Show people Christianty work*

The trouble with too many Christians is that they are more concerned about their doctrine of holiness than they are about being clothed with the beauty of Christ's purity. Two Christian nurses fell into a heated argument *about* the doctrine of sanctification. One said that sin could be taken out of a person; the other one denied it. Finally both lost their tempers and both of them demonstrated that what they needed was not a controversy but a cleansing. They needed to make a full surrender to the Spirit of holiness. By so doing the stamp and image of Christ-likeness would be written upon them, and they as epistles of God would bear the message of cleansing grace before the world.

### III.

The Spirit of God is also the Spirit of Power. To the disciples, just before his ascension, Jesus spoke two remarkable sentences that carried with them the promise of power. Luke 24:49 says, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high". In Acts 1:8 he assures



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Because, as Murray puts it, "through life would come the knowledge and likeness of God! But man, falling before the sin of pride, put knowledge ahead of life, and his troubles began. They began, and they have not ended. For today, after the long story of proud man's effort to work out his own salvation, atomic man has the knowledge, the "know how", but he seems to have no secret to live with that power, to live with himself or to live with him with his neighbor. *Lets pray it won't be his destruction*

One of the distinctive things about a man who is sensitively yielded to the Spirit of Truth is that he does not take his orders from or pattern his life after the customs of society in which he lives. He is open to the truth. *He doesn't have to do as others in his crowd or doing. He does what would please Christ*  
Take the case of Peter in the early church. He had been preaching to Jews only. There came a day however, when he was invited to conduct meetings among the Gentiles in Caesarea. He was on the point of saying "No", feeling that the gospel was not for them, when the Spirit of God spoke to him, "What God hath cleansed that call not thou common!" (Acts 10:15). Whereupon Peter flung his racial prejudice to the winds and began to fraternize with Gentiles in the ministry of Christ's universal gospel! The same Spirit of Truth is at work today. Take for an example, the case of the pastor who wanted to take into the membership of his church a converted Japanese. No one doubted the young man's conversion or the quality of his Christian life. Yet when his application was presented to the Board of Deacons, that group was ~~was~~ ready to turn him down. The pastor sensing the situation, moved to lay it on the table until the next meeting. Then he conferred with his deacons. "What grounds have we for rejecting this man? They could think of none. When the matter came up again, a month later, he was received. One deacon, who shared the incident, said, "I used to feel differently on this race question, but the Lord showed me where my thinking was wrong". *The Lord can guide your thinking & direct your actions.*

*II. Are you undecided, what is right or wrong? ask Him*  
Again, the Spirit of God is known as the Spirit of holiness". That phrase occurs in Paul's let-



them, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." The word "power" fascinates most of us. In fact ours is, to an extraordinary degree, a power-conscious age, and a power-hungry age. Yet our conception of power and our use of such power as we have are so selfish, that we would tend to wreck our world rather than to save it.

### Conclusion

Let us go back to those early Christians and see what magnificent things happened to them when "the power of the Holy Spirit took possession of them."

Speaking of the vast needs that challenge us in contemporary life one writer observes that, "Politics needs to be purified; our industrial life world needs to be pacified; our social life needs to be simplified; our whole world needs to be unified." That is true. But how would it do to declare a holiday on all our grandiose schemes long enough to start something new. New? You say. Yes, quite new. It is making Jesus Christ, actually and consistently, the central figure in our lives. Can we do it? Yes, but it will take power, because you have not seriously tried it. It take such power that only the Holy Spirit can furnish it. We must have the power to make Christ central. How we need it! It will come when we kneel humbly before God in prayer. Then will God write the mark of power upon us and send us out as epistles of his grace to be read of all men.

*Do you want this power to live triumphantly, to be able to live as Christ wants you to? Do you want power to keep sweet, humble & pure in face of all circumstances? Do you need power to be a better witness, concerned with winning others for Him? Then meet me here & let's pray for that power that we all need.*