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WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST?

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays more and more people everywhere especially among those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour, ask this question, "What exactly happened on the Day of Pentecost and what does it all mean to me today?" Many things will depend upon the answer to this question. From the account given in the Word of God in Acts chapters 2 and 3, we can distinguish eight things that happened on that day:

1. A sound came from heaven (Acts 2:2);
2. Cloven tongues like as of fire came down and sat upon each of the disciples (Acts 2:3);
3. They spoke with other tongues (Acts 2:4);
4. They received the promise of the Father on that day (Acts 1 :4);
5. They were baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1 :5);
6. The Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1 :8);
7. They were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4);
8. The prophecy of the Old Testament prophet Joel (the relevant part of it) was fulfilled on That day (Acts 2:16).

These eight features easily fall into three categories: Outward features of symbolic significance (items 1-3); Inward work of the Holy Spirit (items 4-7), and Old Testament Scripture fulfilled (item 8). Let us consider them one by one.

Outward features of symbolic significance a sound came from heaven

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2).

(i) **"...A sound..."** The sound from heaven is first spoken of in Genesis 1 :3, at the creation of the world, when God's voice sounded upon the face of the deep, "Let there be light". Now in Acts 2:2 it is heard again to bring forth a new creation: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17). This sound indicates the "Word of God". The Oxford English Dictionary gives the meaning of "word" as "a sound or combination of sounds conveying an idea". So a word is a sound with a meaning. This sound from heaven was not a meaningless sound. It was full of meaning and is a symbol of "the Word of God" bringing forth anew creation. The Lord Jesus is called the Word of God. He is the beginning of all things. On the Day of Pentecost He began His new work.

A new creation in Christ

(ii) **"...from heaven..."** The words "from heaven" indicate that God had now begun to work from heaven in a new way. During the whole period of the Old Testament the preparation for God's wonderful work of salvation had been going on. The coming of the Messiah had been foretold again and again, and various details beginning from His birth to His death, burial and resurrection had been given. The people of Israel had been chosen and prepared so that the Messiah, the Saviour of the whole world, might be born among them. Then all that had been foretold concerning the Messiah had been fulfilled. The Messiah had been born in Bethlehem; He was crucified and died upon the cross; He had risen from the dead and had been exalted to the right hand of God. Fifty days had also passed since the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Everything appointed by God had been fulfilled to the letter, and therefore now the pre-appointed day, the Day of Pentecost was "fully come ". God began His mighty work of salvation, to bring out a people for His Name from every tongue and nation. In the Old Testament, God had taken out a people from the family of Abraham. Now He was taking out a people in the New Man, in Christ, from every nation under heaven.

Oh! what a glorious work that is! Those who are saved know it from their own experience. "The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God" (Isa.52:

10). Till now God's arm had been covered as with a full-sleeved shirt or coat, and only his hand could be seen. But now this whole arm was uncovered and became visible to the sons of men. Oh! what a holy arm it is! When you see it, you will fall down and worship the mighty God our Saviour. Now, not only the chosen people, the children of Israel, but people of all nations in the whole world were going to see how the mighty God could take a beggar like you or me from the dunghill and make him to inherit the throne of glory (1 Sam. 2:8). That is why this sound came, not from the east or west, but from heaven !

(iii) **"...as of a rushing mighty wind..."** The 'wind' is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (John 3:8); 'rushing' indicates quickness of movement; and 'mighty' means powerful. In one day 3000 souls were saved. In one moment Saul the persecutor became a believer. So the rushing mighty wind represents the quick, powerful movement of the Holy Spirit, by which He converts a stubborn, blind and filthy sinner into a holy man or woman of God.

(iv) **"...and it filled..."** The Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again. He is worthy that He should fill all things. "He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things" (Eph.4:10). The Holy Spirit has been sent to bring Him to that place of pre-eminence amongst His people.

(v) **"...the house..."** We read that the mighty rushing wind came and filled the entire house. The 120 disciples were gathered in the upper room, but the Holy Bible says the rushing mighty wind filled all the house' where they were sitting. By using the word house here, we are definitely made to think of the House of God, which House we are (1 Peter 2:5; Heb.3:6). God's eternal purpose is to fill the House of God with His glory, and make it His glorious Church without spot or wrinkle (Eph.5:27). When Moses had set up the Tabernacle, the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle (Exo.40:34). When Solomon had built the Temple at Jerusalem and brought the Ark of Covenant into the appointed place, the glory of the Lord filled the House of the Lord (1 Kings 8:2). Now that the Church came into being, immediately "the house" was filled.

(vi) **"...where they were sitting..."** It so happened that when the appointed time came, the disciples were not on their knees, but were sitting, and they received the Holy Spirit. In the house of Cornelius all those who received the word through Peter received the Holy Spirit while Peter was yet speaking (Acts 10:44). The posture of the body is not a condition, but rather the posture of the heart; that is, it must be ready with repentance and faith by the Holy Spirit.

2. Cloven tongues like as of fire

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them"(Acts 2:3).

(i) **"...cloven..."** According to the Mosaic Law the children of Israel were permitted to eat the flesh of cloven -footed animals only (Lev.11 :3). This restriction reminded them that they were to be separated from sin and defilement, "...ye shall be holy; for I am holy..."(Lev.11:44). Fire represents the unapproachable holiness of God (Heb.12:29). Thus these cloven tongues like as of fire indicated that the Holy Spirit had come to dwell in the disciples to enable them to lead a separated life. This enabling is the outward work of the Holy Spirit.

(ii) **"...tongues like as of fire..."** In his vision Isaiah saw the seraphim taking a live coal and laying it upon his mouth and saying, "Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged" (Isa.6:7). In the same way, when these cloven tongues of fire touched the disciples it meant that the Holy Spirit had come to witness to them that, by the efficacy of the precious blood of Christ, their sins had been taken away (John1 :29), and their conscience had been purged from every guilt of sin and condemnation, (Heb,9:14), This inward witness in us is the inward! work of the Holy Spirit,

(iii) **"...and it sat..."** The Holy Spirit rested upon each of the disciples, When the Lord Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit of God descended like a dove and alighted upon Him; the Father was fully satisfied and the Holy Spirit of God rested fully upon Him. In the Old Testament we read that when Noah sent out a dove it could not find any resting place, because everywhere it saw only dead bodies; floating upon the waters (Gen,8:9), After the new vegetation began to appear, Noah sent out the dove a second time and the dove returned to Noah it with an olive leaf because it could not find a resting place, The third time it found a resting place in the new vegetation and did not return again to him (Gen,8:10-12), As it was with Noah's dove when it was sent out the second time, the Holy Spirit came upon the Old Testament prophets and apparently rested upon them for a time, But now on the Day of Pentecost, as a result of Christ's finished work of redemption, the Holy Spirit came and rested upon the disciples fully to dwell in them In a special way peculiar to New Testament believers (John 14:17).

(iv) **"...upon each of them..."** Each one of the disciples was accepted individually, There is no such thing as mass conversion, when a whole community or family is converted en-masse, Each one has to make an individual, personal decision. If the father believes, the whole family is not accepted by God, but only those in the family who have made intelligent decisions for Christ from their hearts (Acts 16:32-34; 18:8) .God does not go by round numbers, if one of the 120 had not repented and had not accepted Christ as his personal Saviour, then, only 119

would have received the Holy Spirit, even though that is not a round figure, But in this case all 120 were disciples who had repented and believed in Christ with all their hearts, and that is why the cloven tongues of fire came and rested upon each one of them.

(To be contd.)

C.E.D

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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15-6-2002

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and even the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of peace, that brought Him again from the dead. May the Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of His everlasting covenant make us perfect in every good work, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, to Whom be glory forever and ever (Heb.3:20,21).

As we are entering into the latter half of the year, there is on all hands that eagerness and earnestness to be engaged in the work of God, more profitably and acceptably, rising over the failures and shortcomings that marked our service in the first half of the year. This calls for fresh consecration and commitment unto Him, the "Son over his own house", the "Lord of the harvest", even our Lord and Christ, the Head of the Church (Heb.3:6; Matt.9:38).

It is one thing to work for God and another to have God work through us. While we are often eager for the former, God is always desirous of doing the latter. One of the important facts in the surrender of the life is the attitude which gives God the chance to work His perfect will through us. For, it is God Who is working to evangelise the world; it is God Who has laid the plans for it; it is God that hath the power to successfully execute them. Now the God Who is the ruler of the universe, does not want us to plan and worry and work for Him. For, while He appreciates our purposes toward Him, yet they may all thwart. His purposes for and through us. What He wants is not our plans, but our lives, that He may work His plans through us.

Now God will certainly do this through every life that is yielded to Him, if we simply trust Him so to do, and follow as He leads us on. His Word upon this is clear. "For we are...created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath BEFORE ORDAINED that we should WALK IN THEM" (Eph.2:10). God has a foreordained plan of good works in Christ Jesus, and as each member of the Body of Christ yields himself or herself to Him absolutely to do His ordained works, He will then give and reveal to that individual member that particular work, so that they may WALK IN THEM, This is a plain promise of guidance, not only into a practical life -work for each individual yielded to Him, but the life -work which God hath ordained for each one of His children, "before the foundation of the world."

It may seem and sound incredible. If God should have a purpose for every drop of dew glittering in the morning sunlight; for every blade of grass that upsprings from the earth; for every flower that blooms on the hill or heath, can He not have a plan for the lives of men and women for whom these were created? And what can we say about the myriads of lives of His children that are apparently afloat upon the stream of a purposeless existence? Also it can be so. But it is because God cannot reveal His will to an UNRENOUNCED SELF- WILL. God cannot make His plans clear to a life of SELF -PLANS.

Such unyielded SELF -PLANS and SELF- WILL become the fleshly cataract that veils the spiritual vision to God's plan and God's will. But when you yield your life wholly to Him, God will take away that veil and sooner or later show you your life -work. That is true. It matters not how dark the way is now, how hedged in by adverse circumstances, how trying or complicated your present position. You may have to wait and you must needs be patient. But God will assuredly extricate you from all your entanglements, and work out His blessed will through you, if you will but trust and wait, and obey as He guides. Many a life once so hemmed in as to seem beyond any hope of freedom, is now witnessing and working fruitfully for Him, in the land of the living, in distant or near areas.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil.2:13). In verse 12 the Apostle says, "...as ye have always obeyed...", God works in us by His Holy Spirit Who is given to them that obey Him (Acts 5:32). Since we are utterly incapable in ourselves of shaping, fashioning and purifying the life we have yielded into His hands, let us trust in the Spirit to work in us. He dwells in us and is acquainted with our sins and weaknesses, fleshiness and failures, powers and talents; regretted past, unsatisfied present and unknown eternal future. He, the Spirit knows when to use the knife and when to pour in the soothing ointment; just how to mould and fashion; chisel and cut, straighten and strengthen, pound hammer and polish, until the statue is as He would have it -"like the Son of His love". When He leads us into paths that wound our faltering feet; confronts us with a future that lowers dark and threatening, hems us with situations hard, harsh and mysterious -in all these and many more, may we learn to stand still and whisper to ourselves, "IT IS GOD THAT WORKETH" and TRUST HIM. It matters not how strange, mysterious and confusing His dealings with you are. That is not the way in which we would like Him to work. We may not understand all this, but HE DOES. Let us therefore trust Him as He IN WORKS, so that He may work through us.

Praying that as we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, we may be led into and kept In the good works He hath foreordained for us to walk in,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,
K.PHILLIP

Phil. 2 .12, 13; Heb. 13: 20, 21; 1Thess. 2 .12,13

**I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD—3
BAKHT SINGH**

The Lord Jesus Christ has conquered death, the world, sin and Satan for you and for me, to make us more than conquerors. Have you received that power in your life"? Do you have that experience? Does that power work in you every day? That power is for you and for me. By that power our Lord is drawing people to Himself. See John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me". Here the Lord speaks of His death and His victory over death. Again in John 12:24 He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit". Now this is a simple and a wonderful truth. It does not require any education or Bible knowledge to understand it. All of us have seen a grain of wheat dying and bringing forth much wheat. One grain of wheat can produce about 5000 grains with good soil and water. And again if you sow the same grains next year and go on doing the same for five years, you will have a whole goods train, full of grain. By one grain so much is produced. The Lord Jesus Christ is that grain of wheat.

(To be contd.)

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WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST? —2

3. THEY SPOKE WITH OTHER TONGUES

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

(i) **"...They were all filled with the Holy Spirit..."** God wants His House to be filled with His glory. He begins with filling us individually. Individually we must be filled with the Holy Spirit, and then we shall be filled with the virtues of Christ and the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:22). We are exhorted to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph.5:18).

In the first place, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost when they were born -again and became a new creation. Secondly, they were filled with the Holy Spirit on special occasions: for example, we read, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit when he stood before the eminent men among the Jews (Acts 4:4,5,8); the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit when they were praying (Acts 4:37); and when they were persecuted (Acts 13:52). Thirdly, we read that Stephen was a man filled with the Holy Spirit in a general way in every day life (Acts 6:7). In the same way you also should be filled with the Holy Spirit right at the beginning of your Christian life, and on special occasions of testimony, trial, fervent prayer and ministry, and also in general, every day life. Whenever you feel the work of the flesh is trying to dominate you, and your joy, zeal and boldness for the Lord become cold. go and wait upon the Lord with fresh repentance and faith, and your strength will be renewed (Isa.40:31).

Many believers are not filled with the Holy Spirit. Very often they are filled with anger, hasty words, unclean thoughts, jealousy, covetousness and ill- feeling towards others. They give room to their old weaknesses, and are overcome by carnality and become carnal believers.

Waiting upon the Lord

The remedy is, they should wait upon the Lord with repentance and faith. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa.40:31). Have you experienced the joy of waiting upon the Lord till you are conscious of communion with Him? In this way have you overcome your discouragement, sorrow, disappointment, fear, jealousy and carnal desires? If not, seek Him with all your heart and you will surely find Him (Jer.29: 13).

Some people wait in prayer with wrong motives -to speak in tongues and to have feelings of emotional ecstasy. First of all, these motives are unscriptural and wrong. There is no mention anywhere in the Bible that we should all speak in tongues at least once in our life, and that this is the proof that we have received the Holy Spirit. Secondly, the method of repeating some words like 'Praise the Lord' dozens of times with increasing speed advocated by some people called Pentecostals is a mechanical method and not a spiritual method. Thirdly, it IS against the Spirit of Christ to declare that all those who have not spoken in tongues have not received the Holy Spirit, thus condemning many true children of God and even devoted servants of God from Martin Luther's and John Wesley's times till today. The very fact that many souls have been saved through these men of God is a proof that God has accepted them and has used and is using them for His glory. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them", (Matt.7:20). How wrong it is to say they have not received the Holy Spirit because they have not spoken in tongues !

Vain Repetitions

When you go on repeating the same words again and again your mind will become blank. Psalm 136 is full of praise to God, and every verse gives a reason for praise, and is intelligent praise. But if you repeat words like 'Praise the Lord' or 'Halleluiah' a hundred times at high speed without mentioning any reason for your praise, that will not be intelligent praise and your mind will become practically blank. Waiting upon the Lord does not mean waiting with a blank mind. In fact an empty mind can easily give room for the enemy to work. The man whose mind was empty was attacked by eight demons and his last state became worse than the first (Matt.12:43-45). Non-Christian religions have advocated keeping the mind blank and repeating certain words rapidly, as helpful spiritual exercises, but the Holy Bible rather than advocating such exercises condemns them. The Lord Jesus said, "But when ye pray,

use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do..."(Matt.6:7). Even though a person may appear to be spiritual, when he advises you to say, "Praise the Lord" in quick succession, or "Glory to God", or "Halleluiaah", and keep on increasing the speed until you burst into "tongues", you can easily discern that this is not the Spirit of Christ, but another spirit, and this is an angel of light come to lead you astray.

(ii) **"...And Began to speak..."**. The disciples' tongues were loosened, and freed from nervousness and fear. Many of them had been only fishermen and not scholars, and had no training in public speaking. But now they were granted divine enabling to speak for the Lord. If you are born again the Lord will grant you also such Divine enabling, no matter what your physical or educational handicaps may be. "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you" (Matt.10:19,20).

Speaking for the Lord is very essential as you can see from Rom.1 0:9, 10. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation ". So dear child of God, by faith let your tongue be loosened for the Lord. Speak for Him at every opportunity: (1) to unbelievers in testimony; (2) to God, in prayer; and (3) in the House of God (in the congregation of the saints) in church -prayer, in worship and according to His will in the ministry of the Word. Do not allow your talent to lie hidden for lack of diligence in you.

(iii) **"...with other tongues..."**. The 120 disciples did not speak with the tongues of angels (1 Cor.13:1); nor in an unknown tongue; but they spoke with 'other tongues' which could be understood by the people who were gathered around them. They did not speak in a language, which no one could understand and be benefited by.

The people standing around the disciples were unbelievers, who were now filled with wonder as to how these unlearned men of Galilee could speak in the language of other countries. Besides this, they were also impressed by their zeal in declaring the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11). Thus their hearts were prepared by the Holy Spirit to receive the Gospel, and when Peter gave the word, three thousand souls were converted and testified in the waters of baptism. Their speaking in "other tongues" was blessed by God and made profitable to many. "Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not for them that believe, but to them that believe not" (1 Cor. 14:22).

(To be contd.)

C.E.D.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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2-7-2002

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

All praise and honour and glory be unto Him, even our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath redeemed us by His precious blood, that we should be unto Him, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, even a peculiar treasure above all the people of the earth. May we be, as such enabled to seek the things which are above, and serve Him acceptably and more effectively il:1 the priestly ministry (Exo.19:5,6; Col.3:1 ,2; James 5:16).

In Psalm 99, from which we have the Motto Text taken for the year 2002, "The Lord reigneth", we read in verse 6, "Moses and Aaron among his priests, ...among them that call upon his name. They called upon the Lord, and he answered them." So the reigning Lord is dependent upon the prayers of His people, His priesthood to bring to pass what He hath decreed from His Throne, putting forth the power of that Throne to overcome the forces of the wicked one. The power of His Throne operating through a holy priesthood in touch with that Throne is seen in the lives of Moses, Daniel, Elijah, Paul and many saints also in the Church of the New Testament. So we are seeking to highlight the supreme importance of prayer ministry again in these lines. Repetition it may be, but we pray it may stir up our minds to enter into the value and victory of such intercessory ministry, as His holy priesthood, in these days of desperate need in this area.

"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly" (Jas.5:17). The greatest blessing that can come to an unconverted man is for him to become savingly united with Christ. but when once we are saved, the highest honour which can ever be ours is to be used of Christ in the saving and blessing of others. Now it is a fact exemplified both in the Scriptures and in Christian experience, that men and women whom God most uses are men and women of prayer. We may not be able to grasp all the divine philosophy of prayer, but this we do know, that in the providential government of this world and in the administration of redemption, prayer creates an opportunity for the working of divine grace and power in men, which otherwise there would not be. Not that there is any power inherent in prayer itself, any more than it is faith itself which saves the soul; but prayer is the coupling link between human need and divine omnipotence. With this in mind, let us think again of Elijah. The brief reference of him in his epistle, James tells us three things; (1) He was a man; (2) He prayed; (3) He prayed again.

So first, then, "Elias was a man". We tend to overlook this. Distance wraps those long ago Old Testament heroes in garments of fire, until we scarcely think of them as being human like ourselves. Especially this is so in the case of the startling, rugged, fiery prophet, Elijah. Perhaps we see the "prophet", but lose sight of the "man". But to bring home to ourselves that Elijah was as human as we are, James says that "Elias was a man". This of course does not mean that Elijah was subject to human passions in the sense of being a morally defeated man. James means that Elijah had the same raw material of human nature as we, the same human dispositions, sensations and temptations -fears and hopes, and reactions, which are common human accompaniments. Never do we see it more clearly than when the overwrought champion sinks down under the juniper, tree and requests; to die. That which made this very human man so mighty was the supernatural power which flamed through him.

Despite all his rugged qualities and self - denying austerities, if Elijah had not been a man of prayer, we should never had heard of him. Perhaps there were more equally gifted men in the school of prophets, yet we do not hear of them. Elijah was very zealous for the Lord not only in public exploits like Mount Carmel, but behind the scene in lonely persevering prayer. Many ministers today are anxious to be preachers that they fail to be prophets. IT IS PAA YEA that makes prophets. The man of prayer is the man of power. It was so in Elijah's day. Let us pray that it may be true in our day.

God knows that we need a new generation of praying Elijah's. Times are urgent and desperate, and issues immense and important. Our ministers or church leaders, and all of us believers need to pray more. Prayer operates not only individually, but nationally and internationally. If we claim to believe this, immediately let us put it into practice. We should daily spread the present situation before the Lord in prayer.

Bro. T.E. Koshy and saints of the International Assembly, Syracuse, covet our prayers for the work and ministry of the 20th North America Convocation, God willing, to be held at Le Moine College facilities from 24th to 28th July.

Sis. Mani, handmaiden of the Lord, who stayed in Hebron for nearly two decades, slept in the Lord on the 25th of June. She rests from her labours (Rev.14:13). Pray for the comfort and salvation of all her family members from Hindu fold. Many fellow -believers were present at the funeral service.

Praying that the Lord may find us a praying generation to withstand the assaults of the evil one against the Testimony of the Lord, from the middle of this year,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,
K.PHILLIP

Eph. 6 :18; Luke 18:1; Jer. 33:3

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD—4 BAKHT SINGH

The Lord Jesus Christ died as a grain of wheat to bring many sons into His heavenly glory, and He will fill the whole heaven with those sons. That power was released when He died, was buried, and rose again. This is a simple truth. If a grain of wheat has so much power to produce hundreds of grains, how much more the Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ !

When He was upon this earth, no man could touch Him. When his enemies came to Him in the garden of

Gethsemane, as we see in John 18:4-6, our Lord asked, "Whom seek ye?" They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth". And He said, "I am he". As soon as they heard those words they went backward and fell down. They were afraid to touch Him. Yet He gave Himself for us that we might be more than conquerors. He did not die as a martyr. He gave Himself to bring us to the highest power in the whole universe. And that power is being offered to you also. Has that power come into you? Does it work in you? Are you being raised up higher and higher with the same power every day? Do you find yourself victorious in suffering, persecutions, trials, poverty and what not? Many Christians are weeping Christians. They have no right to be called Christians. God's Word says so. "...if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom.8:9). Again He said, "Whosoever believeth on me hath everlasting life". That proves what kind of life you have. That is why God promises all these seven things -tribulations, temptations, trials, famines, sword, suffering and persecution -to show us His power; while others start crying and weeping, we can be more than conquerors.

Now see how the same power worked in the Lord Jesus Christ as He moved from place to place. You find an illustration in John 4:4. "And he must needs go through Samaria". The Samaritans were extremely hated and despised by the Jews, so much so the Jews would not even drink water from the hands of a Samaritan, as we read in verse 9, ".the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans". That is our condition as sinners. We are a people despised and rejected because of our sinful nature and sins. According to Isaiah, we are called "filthy rags". Now for a purpose, our Lord was determined to go through Samaria. Evidently, the disciples were not happy to go that way. They knew that they would not be able to get food or water there, But the verse says, "He must needs go through Samaria". He had decided to go that way, because His eyes could see far off a woman in need. His eyes can see everything. When Philip met the Lord Jesus Christ for the first time, he went in search of Nathaniel and after much search he found him and said, "Nathaniel, we have found the Messiah". So he brought him to Christ and straightway the Lord said, "...Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee". His eye can see everything. He is our Creator. He has all power. His eyes saw that woman telling her family, "I'll go at midday to draw water". If she went there in the morning or evening many would see her. To avoid their look she went at midday. Our Lord knew her plan before she planned it and that is why He said, "I must needs go through Samaria".

Just at the right time, our Lord came to Jacob's well. His timings and His ways are so perfect! His movements and His times were controlled by Heaven itself. He came to the side of the well and being weary He sat there...The disciples went to buy some food in the town. He became tired, weary and hungry to show that He knows our weariness, tiredness and hunger. He was showing how anew power can come into us, and make us victorious. See, from hunger, tiredness and weariness, the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples became a means of blessing to the woman at the well.

(To be contd.)

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WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST? —3

THE TOWER OF BABEL

The New Testament miracle of tongues on the day of Pentecost is the counterpart of the Old Testament miracle of tongues at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11); and it sounded the end of the curse and confusion which came upon the men who wanted to make a name and fame for themselves, and did not want to give God the glory. But sad to say, we are rather slow to learn this lesson properly, and we serve the Lord with imperfect service unconsciously seeking some glory for ourselves. Even servants of God seek name and fame for themselves, and say, "Otherwise how will people know to which group or denomination we belong? How will they know that this work is our work, and these converts are our converts?" Some are very bold and frankly say, "This work is my work and I am the Founder - President", Others do not like to brazenly take glory to themselves personally, and prefer to do so for their "group" or "church" or "denomination"; and to make it sound good and honourable take the name of some great man like Paul, Peter, Apollos, Martin Luther or John Wesley (1 Cor .1: 13). Some theorise like this, "We know all about 1 Cor.1 :12 and 13. But there are many wrong doctrines; therefore we must have a name to identify our group in order that people may know what we stand for. So what harm is there in saying, I am of Paul?" Thus they make the Word of God of none effect (Matt.15:6). Thank God there are some who in spite of everything are satisfied to be called "Christians" according to Acts 11 :26. But let such also be watchful lest Satan tempt them and they become the proudest of all, like the fourth group in 1 Cor:1 :12!

The Holy Spirit of God has come to teach us how to give all the glory to Christ. Who alone is worthy. and be completely delivered from all the confusion of Babel and Babylon, the synonyms of self-glory. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth. Is come...He shall glorify me" (John 16:13, 14).

At the Tower of Babel God wrought a miracle and made the people to speak in different tongues so that they could not understand one another's speech, and they were scattered abroad upon the face of all the earth (Gen.11 :8). That very thing happened to them which they had wanted to avoid. Their unity could not keep them united.

On the Day of Pentecost exactly the opposite phenomenon happened. Every man heard the disciples speaking in his own language, describing the wonderful works of God and giving all the glory not to man but to God. Although they spoke various languages they realized that they were one family in Christ. Soon after. there arose great persecution because of which they were scattered physically but were united in their love for the Lord (Acts 8:4).

Three kinds of "Tongues"

There are three kinds of tongues mentioned in the Word of God.

(1) **"Other tongues"** which did not need any interpretation as every one present heard the message in his own language in a miraculous way (Acts 2:4).

(2) **"A tongue"** (1 Cor .14:27) which needed interpretation as it was not understood by those present. Of this the Apostle Paul has laid down by the Holy Spirit as follows: "If there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church" (1 Cor.14:28).

(3) **"A tongue spoken not to man but to God"** "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries". For such cases also it is laid down, "let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God" (1 Cor.14:2,28). If you go against what is clearly laid down in the Word of God, you disobey at your peril! One peril is this, you will fall an easy prey to deceiving spirits who come in the form of an angel of light. Beware of those who speak in "a tongue" in a manner which does not fall under any known Scriptural category, but show marks of confusion and disorder such as:

1. More than two or three speaking in tongues at a gathering (1Cor.14:27);

2. Many speaking in tongues at the same time (1 Cor.14:27);
3. Speaking in tongues without interpretation (1Cor.14:27);
4. Saying, "Our spirit cannot be controlled, and we cannot control ourselves from speaking even though it is in a disorderly way" (1Cor. 14:32);
5. Causing confusion in the assembly even to the knowledge of unbelievers (1 Cor.14:33); and
6. Women speaking in tongues in the church, which is unscriptural whether with or without interpretation. (1 Cor.14:34).

Finally in this connection, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant" (1 Cor.14:37,38).

(iv) "...as the spirit gave them utterance..." There was no effort on the part of the disciples to speak in "other tongues"; apparently they had no previous conception of it, and never expected it, nor did they seek it; it was a sovereign act of God and the Spirit Himself gave them utterance. The Word of God never exhorts us anywhere to expect it or seek it. On the other hand we are exhorted not to speak in tongues, because even though we speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not love, we would only be like a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal; and so we should seek not to speak in "a tongue", but rather to love and to prophesy (1Cor.14:1-3). How sad and how dangerous it is to seek those things which God does not want us to seek! Let us beware of committing this serious blunder.

When the 120 disciples spoke with "other tongues" on the Day of Pentecost it was with a meaning and a purpose, and it was in the perfect plan of God, Who is always wonderful in counsel and excellent in working (Isa.28:29). Of all that happened at that time there was nothing irrelevant, extra or unnecessary. The more enlightenment we receive, the more intelligently we will be able to say that as always, so also on the Day of Pentecost "He hath done all things well" (Mark 7:37).

(To be contd.)

C.E.D.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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17-7-2002

Dear Fellow-Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, the Lord which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Praise be unto Him, even the Father, Lord Almighty Who hath said, "...come out from among them, and be ye separate...' will receive you, ...and ye shall be my sons and daughters...". The Lord enable us all to walk before Him and serve Him, enjoying and expressing the fulness of life in Him, through the infilling and in working of the Holy Spirit, day by day (Rev. 1 :8; 2 Cor.6:17,18; Eph.5:17-20).

We desire to dwell upon the precepts and principles that govern the enjoyment of His fulness in the believer's life, walk and witness. Having been born again and having "received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Rom.8:15), so that He dwells in us, what then is the secret of His fulness, of His abundant life of peace, power and love? We may answer -the absolute, unqualified surrender of our lives to God, TO DO HIS WILL instead of OUR OWN. When we surrender our sins, so to say, and believe, we receive the Holy Spirit. When we surrender our lives, and believe; we are filled with the Holy Spirit. The receiving of the Spirit is God's answer to repentance and faith; the FULNESS of the Spirit is God's answer to SURRENDER and FAITH. At conversion the Spirit enters;

at surrender, the Spirit already entered, takes full possession. The supreme condition of the FULNESS of the Spirit is a life WHOLLY SURRENDERED to God, to do His will.

This is true;-

1. IN REASON. To our mind all the clouds that have been hindering the clear outshining of this great truth into our soul, will vanish away before him, who will ponder carefully the great Scriptural and experimental truth of "the twofold nature of the believer". Note first the condition of the sinner. He has but one nature -"the old man". He is declared absolutely to be dead in trespasses and sins. He has the self-life, but not the Divine-Life within him. He walks in the flesh and that only. The Spirit may and does strive with him, but not "in him", for only he who is Christ's hath the Spirit. But now comes the wonderful change. He repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is born again, born from above, born of God, born of the Spirit. What do these phrases signify? Simply that a new life, divine life, life of God has come into him. God Himself in the Person of the Holy Spirit has come to dwell in him. He has received the Holy Spirit. He has what the sinner does not have -a new nature. But when the new life, the Spirit, came in, did the old life, "the old man" go out? Alas, no. If he had, then to receive the Spirit would be at once forever to be filled with Him, for He would have the full possession. But this is not so. The old life does not go out when the new comes in. Upon this, God's Word and our experience are painfully clear.

As a believer, he has a dual nature. In him are both the "flesh" and the "Spirit", the old life and the new. These two co-exist and both dwell in him. But as deadly foes they struggle for the mastership of his life. "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh". For each wants not only to be in him but to have full possession. Each desires to fill him. The problem is changed. It is no longer how he shall receive the Spirit, for that is settled. He has received Him. But he finds Him a joint tenant with the flesh. Wherefore the question now is, having two natures within him, how shall he be filled with one of them? How shall he enjoy the fulness and abundant life of the Spirit? How shall he be delivered from the life and power of the flesh?

The answer seems clear. How else could he be filled save by yielding himself wholly to the one, which he would have fill him? He has the power of choice; he can yield himself to either. It is clear that whatever life he yields himself to that will fill him. When he once yielded himself a servant to the flesh (Rom. 6:19), was he not filled with all unrighteousness (Rom.1: 29)? Even so now, just in proportion as he yields himself to the Spirit (Rom.6:19), will he not be filled with that Spirit? It is as though the sweet fresh air of springtime should enter into a ten-roomed house full of foul odours. You open up one chamber to it, but leave the rest closed and in possession of the old fetid atmosphere. Truly, the pure air has entered, but how can it fill the house until you yield that house wholly to it, throwing open every nook and cranny to its fragrant breath? Or it is as though a fountain were fed by two different springs, bubbling up from the ground, one of water and the other of oil. There is no doubt that the fountain has received water, for it is constantly inflowing. Yet how can it be filled with water save as it yields itself WHOLLY to its life-giving stream, and refuses to yield itself to the oil? Even so it is with the Holy Spirit. True He has come into every believer's heart, and abides there, and will abide forever. Yet every believer thus indwelt by the flesh and the Spirit may so continue to yield to the flesh and as to thwart, choke up and clog all manifestation of the fulness of the Spirit Who is within him. This fact that even after the Spirit has been received, there may be a mastership of self in our lives, through failure to yield to the Spirit, is a full and sufficient explanation of all lack of fulness of the Spirit. He who knows the awful power of self -life in himself, its enmity with God, its carnality, its grieving and quenching of the Spirit, its deadly blighting of the blessed fruits of the Spirit, and so forth needs no other explanation of the failure of the fulness of the Spirit, than the fulness of self. The trouble is not a Spirit unentered, but a Spirit unyielded to. The remedy is clear, logical, inescapable; a refusal to yield the life to the mastership of self, and a surrender to the Spirit that the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus may make us free from the law of sin and death (Rom.8:2). God helping, we may continue on the above in our next issue.

The 61 st Anniversary of the Lord's work and Testimony, of the church at Jehovah-Shammah, Chennai was well attended by saints from neighbouring assemblies as well as many of our fellow -servants from the South. Worship and remembrance of the Lord had its prominent place in the gathering of the saints, as it was from the beginning of this Testimony, established through the instrumentality of His chosen servant, late Bro.Bakht Singh and other co-workers and elders who laboured with him. The theme of the messages for these days was "consecration" (1 Chron.29:5). Brothers Paul Sudhakar and Theodore Reginald shared the ministry of the Word. The 12th July service closed with a short procession covering the neighbourhood and ended with a love feast. Pray that we saints, servants and elders may move into the 62nd year with the joy of being wholly committed and consecrated to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

Praying that the fulness of life and joy may be ours by the infilling and in working of the Holy Spirit, as we seek to follow and be obedient to the heavenly vision,

I remain,
Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

Psa. 16 :8,11;Acts 9 : 31; Eph. 5 : 18-20

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD—5
BAKHT SINGH

When the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ went out to buy food, the Samaritan woman came to the well and our Lord began to speak to her. He spoke to her of wonderful truths in a very short time, truths which cannot be easily understood even by the most learned scholars. In John 4:14 He said, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life". Then in John 4:24 He said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth". These two verses contain the most wonderful truths about salvation, and our Lord was revealing the same truths to this woman. In John 3 our Lord spoke to Nicodemus, who was a great man in the whole Jewish nation. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, which had 70 members. To him the Lord spoke as unto a child. He spoke to him about new birth. But to this woman the Lord revealed great truths. Then slowly and very lovingly He began to uncover her sin. Even though He knew all about her life, He never told her anything in the beginning. He spoke to her how to worship God in Spirit and in truth (v.24) and He also told her, that He is the Messiah (v.26). Then He told her about her condition. The way He spoke to her with love and kindness, straightway she was delivered from her sinful life and straightway she left her pot and went away (vs.27,28). She did not forget her water pot; she left it purposely.

In the whole of Sychar, people knew that she had six husbands. She was known as the woman with six husbands. That is why she came at midday to draw water. She had to come again and again to draw water for the man with whom she was living in sin. When you live in sin, you have to do many shameful things to hide and cover your sin—You have to do many deceitful things, and use many devices. That woman was tired of her sinful life. She was tired of drawing water and carrying it for that wicked man. That pot was a symbol of her slavery .She left her water pot not because she forgot it, but because she was so happy that she left it behind. "The woman then left her water pot, and went her way into the city" (John 4:28). She left the pot for a purpose as though she was saying, "Pot, you stay here itself; from today I don't want your service or be in slavery .I am not going to carry you any longer. You remain there". She left it as a sign of true repentance. Now that power to overcome sin had come into her. Our Lord never told her, "Leave that man, I know who you are. I know everything. Do not live with him any longer". He -only spoke to her about worship, and the message began to work in her and brought conviction of sin and change. She brought the whole of Sychar to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now she could say joyfully, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29). That will happen to you also. The Lord will remove every water pot of sin from your life. He will make you free from your sinful life.

(To be contd.)

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