

That the Holy Ghost cannot guide or teach contrary to His own interpretation of the Bible goes without saying. But can the Holy Ghost guide without using the Bible? Can the Holy Ghost teach without that teaching being necessarily contained in the Book? When the Holy Ghost says, "do this," or "go here," or "go there," must the Bible be consulted to test whether His guidance is correct or not?

The old idea is we must try all things by the Word. Then how did Christ's followers after Pentecost and before the New Testament was written try all things? Matthew and Mark were not written till five years after Christ's ascension. How did the early Christians during those five years get their instruction? Luke was not written till twenty-four years later, and the fourth gospel John, was not written till sixty years after the ascension. What had the people to guide them during this period?

It is assumed that the New Testament was put into the hands of every convert on the day of Pentecost. How could this be? If then these early converts had no "New Testament" as we have it, how were they guided? If the New Testament was not bound till a hundred years at least after the ascension, could it be said that the early disciples were without the Word of God for this hundred years? If so, what is the meaning of such passages as Saul and Timothy were "forbidden of the Holy Ghost to speak the 'word' in Asia?" Paul and Barnabas tarried in Antioch teaching and preaching the "Word of the Lord."

When the Spirit gave those who were filled with the Holy Ghost at Pentecost utterance, what Word had they to try these utterances with, or is it not more likely that they recklessly uttered what God gave them to utter, leaving results with God. Were these utterances the "Word of God to their hearers?"

What "Word" was it that prayer was offered for that Peter and John might speak with boldness, and that prayer was answered for, as being filled with the Holy Ghost, they "Spake the Word of God with boldness?" What "Word of God" was it that the disciples could not forsake to serve tables? Why is it said

that the "Word of God" increased and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly? The New Testament had not been written. It must have been that those who were willing to let the Holy Ghost teach them were multiplied.

When the Holy Ghost said, "Separate me Barnabus and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them," was this utterance the "Word of God" to those to whom it was addressed? The New Testament was not the guide of "the prophets and teachers" in this case. It was not then written. Barnabus and Saul being sent forth by the Holy Ghost proclaimed the "Word of God" in the synagogues of the Jews. Sergius Paulus, a man of understanding, a pro-consul, called unto him Barnabus and Saul and sought to hear the "Word of God." Was this "Word" the Bible? The New Testament was not then written.

Was the "Word of God" which they in Samaria received contained in the lids of a book?

Was it the New Testament that the Gentiles received when they received the "Word of God?" It was not then written. It must have been the utterances of men filled with the Holy Ghost.

Did God speak in those days in a way that He does not to men now, since the Bible has been written? Does the Bible supplant the Holy Ghost, or take the place of the Holy Ghost, or supplement the work of the Holy Ghost in teaching?

When almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the "Word of God," was it to hear the Bible expounded that they came? The New Testament was not then written? Did the speakers take texts to have their discourses upon, or is the custom of the textual discourses a modern innovation, a profanation of the temple of God?

And when the "Word of God" was spread abroad throughout all that region, had a bevy of Bible societies broken loose, or what was this Word? The New Testament had not yet been written. And when the Gentiles glorified the "Word of God," did they do what many are inclined to do in this generation, glorify the Bible? But the New Testament was not then written. It must