

here say that the power given at Pentecost was not given to work miracles. If you will turn to Luke 9:1-3, you will see that two years before Pentecost, Christ gave His disciples "power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases." Now the power of Pentecost was different. I would not say that this power was not augmented at Pentecost. It was augmented; nevertheless, the power at Pentecost was different. It was more the impartation of a life to be lived out in these disciples. First of all it had this effect. They were carnally-minded, they had in them the flesh *and* the Spirit, the principle of evil and the Holy Ghost. They had in them what was in Abraham's household, Ishmael and Isaac in the same house. You know how Ishmael came into the home; and he is a type of everybody born in the flesh. There came a time when another boy was born into the family. This corresponds to the new birth. Isaac and Ishmael lived together in the same house a long time; but Ishmael was not changed one whit. There came a time when Abraham was about to give a feast, and the boys got to quarrelling. What was the result? Well, the wife of Abraham spake what I believe was God's thought, and said, "Cast out the bond-woman with her son." Now, there was a time when he ruled the house alone. That is the first experience, before conversion. And there came a time when there were two together,—the experience of simple regeneration, when God does live in the heart to a degree. It is a mistake to say that God is not in the heart from the moment of conversion. A man cannot be converted without the Holy Ghost. But there is another principle, and that is the flesh. There came a time when Ishmael was expelled, and Isaac was left alone. So there comes a time when the old Ishmael is cast out, and the Isaac, the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of promise, comes in to rule in the old house, and possess it entirely.

And now we come to the first thought of it: it is the cleansing of the heart from sin by the Almighty power of the Holy Ghost. How does the Spirit of God do this? It seems to me, in this way—He is the efficient Agent, and

wields the "sword of the Spirit." He comes in by the Word, and by the Word and the blood our hearts are cleansed. Justification sprinkles the blood upon the soul; regeneration infuses the blood, the life, into the soul and spirit; but sanctification transfuses the life through the whole being, and thus Christ liveth in us. The life is wrought in us by the Almighty power of the Holy Ghost, and our hearts are cleansed as the light enters. What expels darkness? Shut up this room, close all the shutters, and to-morrow morning open them. What expels the darkness? The light, of course. The light is holiness; and when holiness comes into a man's nature, the life of Christ pours in, and darkness flees. And there is a holiness of heart, which is of the Holy Ghost, that sweeps out all that is unlike Him.

It is a mistaken idea of some, that God cleanses our hearts and then sends us forward on our own account. God keeps our hearts clean by the light remaining in them, and you will find if there is one single deviation from God's will and we fail to walk in the light, the light that is in us will become darkness. This life can only be maintained by vital union with Christ, and by absolute subjection to His will at every step.

There is one thing more to notice—the revealing of Jesus Christ in these apostles. That is what the baptism of the Holy Ghost gives. That is where you get your power.

A DEAR SISTER

in Boston sighed for many years for power. She lay awake at night and pleaded with God for power—*power*. She knew a good deal of Jesus, but yet sought for power, *power*, *POWER*. And at last, one night, when everything was still, God spoke to her. Jesus Himself drew near, and said to her, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." "Well," she said, "Lord, if that is so, if it is all given to Thee, then there is not a bit left for me; but I will just take Thee, Lord, and have it all." And she had it all; she had it alone, and not apart from Him. Now you see how the disciples had power. Nothing was delegated to them. But the glorified Son of God