

monies or pious exercises to be observed as a means to this end. His immediate disciples He required simply to tarry in the city of Jerusalem till the advent of the Spirit, but to all others He made the acceptance of like blessing a simple matter of faith, and any moment during the Spirit's dispensation was to be charged with all the possibilities of Pentecost for everyone who should hear the glad news.

DID THE EARLY CHRISTIANS ILLUSTRATE THIS TEACHING?

Let us carefully examine. Now, it does not follow that they failed to illustrate it if any or all of them failed occasionally, that is, if there were one or more breaks in their obedient walk in the Spirit. The teaching of Christ would be illustrated by them, to a degree, if only part of the time they walked in the Spirit after this sort and part of the time they did not, provided the cause of their failure would not be the result of intentional neglect of the whole matter. Nay, even if, after a time, the first disciples should have drifted away from such a walk in the Spirit, after having illustrated it for a time, such a fact would not necessarily destroy the truth or render the same experience untrue to the teachings of Christ if reproduced in after generations. Much less after the first generation had passed off the stage of life would the failure of after generations to walk in their example destroy this Pentecostal life, if at any time in the history of the world it should reappear in the experience of any, still would it remain a fact that they who accepted the Comforter, after the practical thought 'above brought out, would illustrate how to keep converted although all others failed so to do.

Now, according to the teaching of Christ thus stated, each of the early Christians who illustrated the teachings of the Master took his final instructions from the Holy Spirit, and from Him alone, and obeyed Him as a real, personal presence. They could not make an oracle of any one of their number, and be consistent, nor yet could they take their orders from any other human

or even presumed divine source. Hence, in place of the Spirit being of secondary consideration, He was first and foremost in all things if they walked in full harmony with the teachings of Jesus concerning Him.

Let us see now if this thought finds any illustration in the Acts of the Apostles. May we not assume that the conduct of all, on and immediately after the day of Pentecost, not only illustrated this, but that this is really implied by Luke in giving his history? But granted that the grand afflatus which rushed upon them all will account for their first acts, even as the acts of all truly converted persons to-day are accounted for by the afflatus accompanying the witness of the Spirit, what about their after lives?

For we maintain that all who receive this witness now, for a longer or shorter time, illustrate this upper room experience. They act as led by a spiritual intuition, and retain God's smile of approval while so acting. No man who has heard the voice of the Spirit speaking his sins forgiven can even conceive of higher spiritual joys then were experienced that glad hour.

But after a time, how did these first disciples act? Concerning these acts, we have the clear statement of Luke that, as a rule, their conduct was the outcome of obedience to the Spirit, as to the commands of a distinct personality. Witness the history of Philip's journey to *Gaza, which is desert*. Witness the call of Saul and Barnabas to a preaching tour to spread the Gospel. Witness Paul's turning from Asia and Bithynia and going to Macedonia, simply and only because of directions received from the Spirit.

When Paul set his face like a flint to go to Jerusalem, one of the disciples professed to have the authority of the Spirit to keep him from his proposed journey. But even then Paul was true to the teaching of Jesus, that the Holy Ghost, and not some disciple, was his individual guide, and so he varied not a hair's breadth from personal obedience to the Spirit as his *only* guide and teacher.

Oh, yes, even in that day were found those who not only did not understand