

APPLICATION

When the day of Pentecost was now come (Rev. Ver.), v. 1. The Master, who had promised the Spirit, had also fixed in His own mind the time for the fulfillment of the promise. The disciples did well to wait, but not to worry. God never forgets, although His purposes may seem to tarry. The attitude of true faith is to leave God's part absolutely to Him, doing our duty or bearing our burden meanwhile with quiet patience and the sure confidence that, when His own time arrives, God will act.

They were all with one accord in one place, v. 1. Peter did not stay away because he could not approve of Thomas, the doubting disciple. John was not absent because he would not worship with Peter, who had lately so basely denied his Master. Mary, the mother of Jesus, did not refuse to come, because she would not associate with Mary Magdalene. No quarrel about politics, or business prevented any one from being there. The weather did not keep the congregation from being well out. No disciple was too tired after the work of the week to come to the place of worship. There was no absentee because of shabby or unfashionable clothes. None remained away because the prayers might be wearisome. In short there were no absentees at all. What a model for our attendance on Sabbath services, and Sabbath School, and prayer-meetings and Christian Endeavor Society gatherings. How much power there is in regular attendance! And how much blessing is lost by the absent ones! In all Christian work, union is strength.

The time is not wasted which is spent in waiting for power from on high. v. 1.

The wind is a symbol of God's working—invisible, mysterious, yet certain in its effects. v. 2.

"The rejoicing power, the quick energy, the assimilating action, of fire, are all included in the symbol, and should all be possessed by Christ's disciples." v. 3.

Willing servants these were. They put

And suddenly, v. 2. We do not know when, or how, God will fulfill His promise. This should lead us to be always expectant. The merchant who expects a rich cargo from a foreign land will be on the lookout for the arrival of the ship. When we speed our petitions to heaven we should look eagerly for the promised answer.

Cloven tongues like as of fire sat upon each of them, v. 3. Some one has spoken thus of this emblem of the spirit. "A tongue—the only instrument of the grandest war ever waged, man's speech to his fellow-man; a message in human words to human faculties; from the understanding to the understanding, from the heart to the heart. A tongue of fire—man's voice, God's truth; man's speech, the Holy Spirit's inspiration; a human organ, a superhuman power." If all Christians realized the force of this symbol, would so many of them be silent? Would they not rather rejoice to testify of Christ as the Spirit gave them utterance?

They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, v. 4. It seems to be true in the spiritual, as in the physical world, that two substances cannot occupy the same space at the same time. A heart already full has room for nothing more. Certain it is, at any rate, that it is only into the heart that is first made empty that the Spirit of God will come. Am I praying for the Spirit in His fulness to come into my soul? Then I must "break down every idol, cast out every foe," renounce all in my heart and life that is opposed to the will of God. Such an emptied bucket will come up again full from "the wells of salvation."

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

the new gift to immediate use. v. 4.

God has regard to tactics. He chose the time when the greatest number could be reached with the least expenditure of effort. v. 5.

A spirit-filled Galilean is a phenomenon which no natural law can explain. It is no more wonderful, however, than that our bodies of clay should contain the divine principle of life. vs. 7, 8.