

is as likely* to be Heavenly as earthly for we may not know what formalities, requiring time, were gone through with after Christ's departure from the earth in His triumphant sweep through the universe to the central home of God; in His reception there; and in the leaving of the Holy Ghost before descending to earth as *the promise of the Father*.

One may with reverential delight and profit speculate on this theme, provided it is with the admission that it must ever be while on earth concerning the unknowable.

We have delayed here, not simply to combat a fancy, but because this humorous dogma has been made to do service in obstructing the way to the reception of the Pentecostal blessing, as will appear further on.

All, then, we know is, that the disciples were asked to tarry at Jerusalem till the promised blessing came, and that that tarrying was, for reasons unknown to us, prolonged to ten days.

But we would call attention to the fact that this waiting incident nowhere in the Bible is given as an example to be imitated. Waiting upon God as an act of devotion is recommended, it is true, but waiting for the Pentecostal baptism of the Holy Ghost is nowhere commanded, or even recommended. One might as well teach that it was essential to be in a large upper room to obtain the promise of the Father, as teach that waiting for ten days, or any fraction of that time, was really necessary to secure the coveted blessing. Scripture does not make these things examples; and it becomes not mortals to be wise above, or beyond, what is written.

Now, we have the six score disciples on the day of Pentecost, welded together by this one thought of waiting God's time to fulfil for them His distinct promise of some new blessing, never before realized by mortal, but which when once it came was to be a possible experience for all to the end of time.

Notice here the conditions to be complied with by the disciples for its being fulfilled. It was simply faith in the promise of Christ that it would be given

them. Their faith, therefore, differed from that which is required of us. It was not that appropriating faith which at once accepted a gift offered in the present tense, but was simple confidence in the promise of their Master that, if they carried out to the letter His instructions, at some future time the desired good would be received. All, therefore, they were required to do to prove their faith genuine was tarrying at Jerusalem in expectant frame of mind.

In this, we repeat, they differ from us, for to us is no command to tarry, and, therefore, waiting for *our* Pentecost, seeing it has no basis of faith in the directions of the Saviour, cannot be even helpful in securing the desired blessing. We will not be misunderstood here, we trust, by sincere lovers of truth, when we maintain that, whilst searching the Scriptures to obtain light concerning this thing is commendable, and that the use of every legitimate means, such as conversation and prayer with those in the experience, and the prayerful study of the writings of others on the subject is right, that waiting for it, after the manner of the disciples during the ten days before its reception, is not only not helpful, but is apt to be hurtful.

Christ proclaimed the fact that when once the Comforter came He was to remain—to abide with us forever—and hence we argue that this waiting experience has no virtue in it when repeated.

In the case of these disciples, it required no prayerful importunity, no straining effort. Any intense fervency in prayer, or more ardent desire, on the part of one, secured no additional advantage, when God's time came for its advent; for they were all *filled* with the Holy Ghost. Their happiness and prayerful spirit was evidently the result of their obedience, and love for Jesus, and their perfect faith and loyalty to Him, together with the blessed memories connected with His life, resurrection, and ascension; and further, we have no right to assume that importunity of prayer, on their part, or ardency of desire, could have shortened the time of waiting, or intensified the