

Our Lord, when giving us that memorable promise concerning the Holy Ghost, in John vii. 37-39, says: "Thus spake He of the Holy Ghost, which they that *believe on Him* should receive." Notice, it says not only those who believe definitely for the baptism of the Spirit should receive it, but that those who believe on Jesus. It is therefore the universal gift to all believers. By believing in Jesus, therefore, one of necessity receives this gift: for no one can believe in Jesus and not receive it. But all do not know the fact, and are constantly like blind men, who do not know the sun is shining, and do not open the windows and let it in. These blind believers in Jesus kneel down in their shut-up hearts and pray for the baptism of the Spirit, when all the while this very longed-for Holy Ghost is beating upon every avenue of their being, seeking for an entrance. The definite, conscious experience of which so many speak as the baptism of the Holy Ghost, is simply the moment when the soul either consciously or unconsciously surrenders itself fully to this divine incoming? The command is "be filled with the Spirit," and we obey this command by abandoning our whole selves to God, and opening every avenue of our being to His possession. Like sunlight, or like the wind, He enters and fills every spot that is opened to Him. The result of this when done suddenly is often a very emotional and overwhelming sense of His presence. But this sudden experience does not rise from the fact that anything *new* has been shed forth from God, but only that which has been already shed forth on the day of Pentecost, 1800 years ago, is now allowed to enter and take full possession.

All the Scripture teaching on the subject of the Holy Spirit is in harmony with this view. Even to the carnal Corinthians the apostle declares: "Know ye not that ye *are* the temple of the Holy Ghost?" etc. His operations may be hindered and the manifestations of His presence clouded; He may be thwarted and grieved, but nevertheless it is a simple fact, that the Spirit of God dwells in *all* believers. As soon as my intellect was convinced of these facts, I went straight to the Lord and confessed my past ignorance and unbelief, and straightway abandoned myself to Him, body, soul, and spirit, for His full possession. Then I believed that He *did* enter at the door thus thrown wide open to Him, and my faith claimed the fact that I was filled with the Spirit up to the measure of my capacity to receive, and I began from that time to reckon on His presence and power as a continual fact in my experience. To me there came no especially emotional experience, as I am not an emotional person; only a quiet gladness and confidence and a continually-increasing development of the blessed fruits of the Spirit's presence. What you need to do is the same thing. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you *have* the Spirit, but you have not yet, perhaps, realized His full presence and power. Abandon yourself wholly to His incoming, and by faith claim the baptism of the Spirit as your present