

# THE HOLY SPIRIT THE INSPIRER OF THE APOSTLES.

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"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."  
—John xiv. 26.

No one can have studied the new Testament with care, and given adequate attention to the promises of our Saviour, regarding the mission of the Holy Spirit, without perceiving that he pointed to a time noticeable, and most important, when the Holy Spirit, whom he terms "the promise of the Father" would be bestowed. He does not intimate that the Holy Spirit has not been given before; but he points to a new era in the history of the church of God, which would be ushered in by an extraordinary effusion of the Holy Spirit;—an outpouring of his gracious influences altogether unparalleled, and so copious that it could not fail to attract the attention of the world, as well as to enlighten, comfort, and sanctify the apostles, and endow them with extraordinary power, so as to fit them, in every respect, for the great work, with which they were entrusted,—for the organizing of Christ's church, in the face of a hostile world, for the completion of God's revelation of divine truth to man in the New Testament Scriptures, and the diffusion of the glad tidings of salvation, throughout the world. He speaks in language, with regard to this great event, which is not to be mistaken. He speaks of the Spirit's being *sent*, of his being *come*; and commanded his disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father;"—until, through him, they should be endowed with power from on high. And when the promised period of the Spirit's outpouring came, it could not be mistaken. It was on the day of Pentecost, when the apostles were all, with one accord, in one place.—They had spent the precious ten days—from the ascension of the Saviour—in prayer; and they were probably now engaged in that exercise, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound, as of a mighty, rushing wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them,

and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Here then was a thing, in regard to which they could not be mistaken. Here was the baptism with the Holy Ghost, and fire, which had been promised, by the Baptist, actually conferred. Here the cloven tongues, like as of fire, appeared on the brows of each of them, and they felt conscious of a new and wondrous power stirring the inmost depths of their souls.—They were miraculously endowed with the power of speaking various languages, and thus fitted at once for carrying on the missionary work, among all nations. Nor was this the only occasion, when the power of the Spirit was perceptibly manifested.—Upon the return of Peter and John to their friends, after a night's imprisonment, and a bold confession of their faith in Jesus, as the only Saviour, before the High Priest and leading men of Jerusalem, "when they had prayed, the place was shaken, when they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with gladness."

## THE HOLY SPIRIT THE GREAT TEACHER OF THE CHURCH.

In the passage before us, our attention is directed to the Holy Spirit, as the great teacher of the church; for though the promise was made immediately to the apostles, yet it was through their divinely inspired preaching, and writings, that the church was to be instructed in all necessary religious truth, even till the consummation of all things. Our Saviour says here, that when the Father should send the Holy Ghost in his name, that is, as his representative,—that he should teach the apostles all things. And in a subsequent passage, he says—"Howbeit, when he the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth," or rather, as it is in the original—into all *the* truth. We are not for a