

The one cannot be vacuum for the other. The one *ejects* the other; and where there is full possession by the Holy Ghost, there is an entire banishment and destruction of all sin. Whatever were the diverse temperaments, the individual histories of this assembled church, whatever their past failures and inconsistencies of character and life, the fire from heaven had consumed all their sins and purified all their natures. They were *all* clean, and clean *altogether*. Whether apostles or disciples, men or women, young or old, they were all saints—a church pure in heart.

O, what an age of golden days !
O, what a choice, peculiar race !
Wash'd in the Lamb's all-cleansing blood,
Anointed kings and priests to God.

But this fulness of the Spirit which they had received was not a mere negative and destructive grace. It was positive and creative in its action; indeed it was the former because it was the latter. The light not merely banishes darkness, it brings color and strength to created nature. The fulness of the Spirit is the perfectness of love; and this not merely expels all sin, but pulses a higher life through the whole man, brings an excitement of holy power which elevates and intoxicates the entire being. No doubt there was a slander in the jeer of their enemies when they said that the members of this inspired church were "full of new wine." But there was just enough of truth in it to feather the "fiery dart." They were inspired, elevated, excited, possessed by a holy afflatus, a Divine enthusiasm which, far transcending all their former experiences of grace, made them appear in some sort like mad or intoxicated men.

This holy inspiration of power manifested itself in various forms. *It wrought wondrous mutual love.* Fire fuses the broken pieces of metal, until they all take one mould. So the fire-baptism of the Spirit fused these believers into one. They loved one another as much as they loved themselves. Their property was sold to meet each other's needs. They "were of one heart and soul, neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own." Again, this inspiration of the Holy Ghost *quicken'd and elevated their worship.* The temple had new attractions. "The breaking of bread" became a cherished ordinance. Their ordinary meals were dignified into acts of special worship. Their whole life ascended into a higher region of spirituality and blessedness. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread at home, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people."

But most especially did this Holy Ghost power *manifest itself in their tongues.* Being filled with the Spirit, they testified of the wonderful works of God. The fire being kindled within them, they spake "with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." The church became a prophetic band. They taught. "Sons and daughters," "young men and old men," "servants and handmaidens" received the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon them, and with differing gifts and in various spheres they all became Jesus's witnesses. The words which they spake were *words of power*, for they fell from tongues of fire. There was glowing, melting heat in them. They burnt their way to the conscience and hearts of those who heard them. Icy indifference melted. Congealed stolidity became soft and susceptible. Callous hatred waxed tender and kind. Law-mongering Pharisees were changed into sin-convicted penitents, and Christ-hating, Christ-murdering foes were startled into the earnest cry, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" The issue was, myriads were awakened and saved. "Then they that gladly received the word were baptized, and the same day there were added unto the church three thousand souls."