

Word make any other conditions for the receiving of this immeasurably great gift than for receiving salvation. Before the Holy Spirit was given, it was His will that this gift should be asked for. For a brief period before the day of Pentecost He was to be waited for. But since that day no one has any warrant from Scripture for teaching or thinking that God requires any asking or waiting by the believer in order to the receiving of His Gift. Scripture makes no account of time in the giving of this Gift. Of course it is the believer who is baptised and sealed with the Spirit; one must be a believer in order to receive these; but there is no intimation that any time must or does elapse after one believes before he is baptised and sealed with the Spirit. If we read Eph. i. 13, "after that ye believed," no interval is implied, they heard the gospel, believed, were sealed. But it is well known that the R. V. gives the correct translation, "in whom having also believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

In Acts viii. we have an account of what was plainly a departure from the way God deals with His people. The Samaritans and Jews had no dealings with each other. The former denied that the Jews were God's people or something akin to this, John iv. 9, 20, 22, and evidently they needed to be made to realize the power which Jesus had given to His apostles. So in that one case the receiving of the Holy Spirit was conditioned upon the laying on of the hands of Peter and John. In Acts xix. Paul said, (Revised Version,)

"Did ye receive the Holy Ghost when ye believed?" or literally "upon believing." It is given to us by the inspired writer as something strange and unusual, out of the ordinary, and Paul did not tell them to do anything to obtain the Holy Spirit, he simply told them about Jesus. There does not seem to be any ground for thinking they had heard of Jesus or were saved by believing on Him.— Paul gave them the gospel, they believed, were baptised, and received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of Paul's hands, the only occurrence of such a thing as far as Scripture teaches.

There was a large assembly of believers in Corinth, and if it had been common for believers to believe and then go on for a long time without being baptised with the Holy Spirit, some, if not many there would have been without this baptism. But it is written to them, "By one Spirit are we ALL baptised into one body, . . . and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Cor. xii. 13. But they are in a very bad condition, and what is told them? to consecrate themselves, to do this or that to obtain the Holy Spirit as the one great remedy for all their ills? That is the way that the popular men talk and write to-day, but you find nothing of the kind in the Word of God. On the contrary we find the solemn words "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" and again, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are