

[Jan. 12.]

What is the promise? Why, that the very best that the holy, mighty, faithful, loving God can give shall be ours on the simple condition that we turn away from sin, accept Jesus as our Saviour, and open our hearts to be filled with the Holy Spirit. "If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give good things to them that ask him." I know that many persons, especially young persons, are afraid to be "filled with the Spirit." They imagine it means something so unnatural as to make them scarcely fit to live with ordinary folk. They are afraid of being "queer." Perhaps they have been misled by what they have seen and heard from some who speak unadvisedly. The fullness of the Spirit is too rich a blessing for us to lose through misunderstanding. The Holy Spirit is God. Can you think of anything more blessed than to have the God who made every beautiful thing, who knows all things, who is infinitely holy, whose name is Love, take possession of you so fully as to enlighten, strengthen, guide, and use every faculty of your mind and soul and body? Are you afraid of God? Would he not make the most of you in every beautiful, gracious, happy way, if you would suffer him to do his own will in you and through you? The angels in heaven do his commandments, hearkening to the voice of his word. They are filled with his Spirit. Would it make you "queer" or disagreeable to live with to be like, the angels? Let us try to be rid of false ideas about the blessed Holy Spirit; let us study what the word says of his work, and his power in us, until we long above all things to throw wide open every avenue of our being to him.

"For every virtue we possess,
And every victory won,
And every thought of holiness,
Are his alone."

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions." Very different, indeed, is the use of the tongue when the soul is filled with the Spirit. Prophecy is not frivolous or uncharitable conversation. You will speak "with other tongues" when the Spirit gives you utterance; but that will not necessarily exclude innocent mirth. It will take the sinful sting from the jest, and leave only its exhilarating cheer. The visions the Spirit gives are not those of wealth or fame for personal ambition; they are the broader, more inspiring visions of what wealth and influence can do to make the world better and happier.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, temperance. Are these to be feared? Let it not be said of us in reference to the Holy Spirit, as was said of Jesus, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

The Teachers' Meeting.

The Lesson Homily in the *Illustrative Lesson Notes* suggestively elaborates the fulfillment of the promise: 1. When? 2. Why? 3. How? 4. What? 5. What the power enabled them to do. 6. The proof of the power. . . . A study of the Holy Ghost may be pursued textually on the following plan: 1. His Names. John 14, 26; 1 Cor. 12, 3, 11; Eph. 1, 13; Heb. 9, 14. 2. His Work. Gen. 1, 2; 6, 3; Psa. 139, 7; Isa. 11, 2; Ezek. 37, 1. 3. His Baptism. John 20, 22; Acts 2, 4; 4, 31; 10, 44; 19, 6. 4. His Fruits. Acts 1, 8; 11, 24; Rom. 5, 5; 1 Cor. 12, 8-10; Gal. 5, 22, 23. . . . Note the outlines given in the First and second Studies of the *Illustrative Notes*, and in the three lesson books—*The First, The Young People's, and The Lesson Handbook*. . . . The symbols of this lesson are worthy of study—why "tongues;" why "cloven;" why "as of fire;" why the day of Pentecost chosen for this display of divine power; why the "sound;" why the "mighty wind."

Blackboard.



The tongue of flame was a symbol of that holy anointing which each apostle received. What it meant of utterance, power and courage, love and zeal, their immediate success and after lives bear ample evidence. The result of the revelation given on that momentous day was but the fulfillment of long-uttered prophecy, and betokens the experience each of us