

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST.

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A LETTER OF COUNSEL.

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The following letter, written by an esteemed sister to a friend, has just been placed in our hands. As it touches on a most interesting point in experimental and practical holiness, we gladly substitute it for one of our own editorials:

My dear . . .

Your letter interested me very much, for it touched on a point of difficulty which for a long time greatly troubled me also, and I think I can give you some light. My trouble was simply this, that I did not recognize the *facts* of the case, but judged purely by my *feelings* concerning it. My feelings were that I did not have the baptism of the Holy Ghost because I did not seem to have the manifestations of it which others had, I mean the emotions and sensations. The fruits of the Spirit I did see to some degree in my life and walk, but I was afraid to attribute them to the indwelling power of the Holy Ghost for fear I might be claiming a blessing I really did not possess, and which I blamed myself for not possessing, but did not know how to get. Now what were the *facts* of the case—I mean the real divine verities behind all seemings? Simply these, that the Holy Ghost *has been given* and *is being* given to every child of God. It would be impossible to be a child of God without it, for the new birth is itself a birth of the Spirit. Now the Holy Spirit is like the sunlight which forces its way into every place where there is the slightest opening to receive it. The sunlight *has been* shed forth upon the world, and the Holy Ghost, the promise of the Father, *hath been* shed forth upon the Church. Every man born into the world shares the world's sunlight, and may have as much or as little of it as he pleases, and every man born into the Church (I mean, of course, the invisible Church of all believers) shares the Church's gift of the Holy Ghost, and may have as little or as much as he pleases. If I want sunlight in my house I do not need to ask God to give it to me as if it were to be a fresh thing shed down from the sky, but I need only to open all the doors and windows of my house to permit the entrance of the sunshine which has already been given; and if I want to be baptized with the sunshine I do not ask the Lord to baptize me, but I go out into the sunshine and am baptized. Similarly, if I want to be filled with the Spirit I need not ask for more of the Spirit to be given to me, but only that more of my self may be given to the Spirit. I am not to look for any fresh outpouring from God, but for a fresh incoming into me of that Spirit which has already been "shed forth" upon every believer.