

thinking of the kingdom being restored to Israel, God was going to do a new and far more wonderful thing, even to send the Holy Spirit to dwell with and be in His people. And the very last thing Jesus tells them to do is to "wait" for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

It was fifty days from Christ's resurrection to Pentecost, He was seen of them forty days, Acts i. 3, so they were waiting ten days nearly. Has God ever told any one since those days to wait for the Holy Spirit?—This may come into the hands of some who are telling believers to ask and wait for the Holy Spirit. Do you not see that God has never since those days told His people to wait or tarry or ask for the Spirit? And if God does not tell His people to do these things and you tell them to, are you not departing from the Word of the living God?

Next to the day that Jesus hung on the cross, that day of Pentecost was the greatest day in the history of God's people. Jesus had come, had made atonement, borne the wrath of God against sin, had shed His precious blood that those who believe in Him might be eternally saved, He had gone back to the Father and is at the right hand of God. And now on that wonderful day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes, comes to dwell with and be in every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, comes to reprove (convict) the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.—Here was an entirely new work of God in the salvation of lost sinners. Believers in Christ were baptised into one body, 1 Cor. xii. 13, they were

united to a glorified Christ as the Head of the body, they were brought into a place which no believer had ever entered before. Believers became the temples of the Holy Spirit. By Him they were sealed, anointed, filled. The second Person of the Trinity had come and done His mighty work and gone back to heaven, and now the third Person comes to do His work.

Let us now see what the Scriptures teach concerning the time when the Holy Spirit is received by the believer. The teaching is very simple. The one Scriptural requisite for receiving the Holy Spirit is faith, or in other words, He is received in the same way that salvation is received.—Whatever men may teach, He teaches nothing whatever as to it being needful for any believer to do anything to receive Him. It is just with receiving the Holy Spirit as it is with receiving salvation, man has made man conditions while God Himself has made only the simple one of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.—His ways are simple, plain, He does all the work and receives all the glory. Man would fain do something so as to get a part of the glory. So we hear much about consecration, laying all on the altar, waiting for power, and the like, all of which are of man.

God in His Word never lays down a single condition for receiving the baptism or sealing or receiving the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Spirit is an accompaniment of salvation, as much a part of it as forgiveness or justification or sonship. It is the gift of God, and He does not in His