

very happy and definite experience. But these preparatory blessings, that "growth" during three years of Christ's teaching, and those definite stages in that growth did not destroy the necessity for the gift of Pentecost, which, as all know, was suddenly bestowed. Now as the Pentecostal blessing was predicted by John the Baptist, promised by Jesus, and bestowed by Him, and as by it the Christian Church was definitely formed and launched upon history, it forms a precedent and an example of the very highest description. In speaking of this example we refer rather to the blessing as received by the hundred and twenty in the upper room, than to the immediate result in the conversion of the three thousand. Look again at what is narrated in the fourth chapter of the Acts: "And when they had prayed the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost"—another sudden bestowment, so mighty in itself and so powerful on the after-life of its subjects as to be recorded in the Book of God.

5. The subsequent history of God's work in the world, is full of instances of the sudden reception of His blessing in its fulness. Almost every biography of an eminent servant of God, records with considerable distinctness, a time after conversion when remarkable light shone on the mind—when the heart was uncovered and God revealed Himself with a saving power far beyond any previous visitation—after which peace was deeper, love fuller, faith was unmingled with unbelief, loyalty to God was absolute, fear was banished, and sweet rest filled and satisfied the soul. In the lives of Methodist saints, such narration is scarcely ever absent. John Fletcher, Mrs. Fletcher, Hester A. Rogers, Thomas Walsh, Pearl Dickinson, Thomas Rankin, Carvosso, Hick, Billy Bray, Borne, Tackabury, Ousley, Graham, Bangs, Hamline, Mrs. Palmer, Wooster, Bramwell, Stoner, Smith, Keyse, Hunt, Young, Collins and Cookman, whose lives have been thought worthy of being embalmed in books of biography, all tell the story of this experience in this sudden and definite form. And to their testimony may be added hundreds of those whose career of Christian power furnished material for biographical portraiture in the periodical literature of the Methodist Church, either in the pages of the magazine or in the columns of the weekly newspaper, who sought the blessing, found it, held it, and triumphed in its joy in the hour of death. And these have not been enthusiasts, in the popular sense of the word. They