

ence and exalt the name of the Holy Spirit. I am quite sure that is the reason of the blessing that we have received. It will be so still. I am very glad that the subject of the Holy Spirit, and the truth of Christ, Christ Himself being the truth, has been placed at the very beginning of our regular course of Bible Study.

I will ask you to take a few verses in illustration of a point or two that I wish to make. John 7: 39. I want you to see that the coming of the Holy Spirit in the present manifestation of His power depends entirely upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. "But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive, for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified." The word "*given*" in italics does not belong there. "The Spirit was not yet, because Jesus was not yet glorified." That seems a marvellous statement, in view of the fact that in the second verse of the Bible we read about the Spirit of God moving upon the face of the deep. All the way through the Old Testament, from the first of Genesis, to the last of Revelation, there are numerous references to the person and work of the Holy Spirit. But so peculiar is the relation of the Holy Spirit in this dispensation, to Christ and His finished work, and His People, that it can be truthfully recorded that the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Now up to the time that Jesus was glorified, there was no man at God's right hand with whom the Spirit could unite us as one *people*. The Spirit of God in the Old Testament was represented as coming upon various believers or servants, but you never read of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament dwelling in the believer. Nor in the Old Testament, of the Holy Spirit baptizing all believers into one body. It is a peculiarity of this dispensation, that the Holy Spirit not only abides pre-eminently with the believer, not only dwells in him continually, but that the Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into one body of which the risen and glorified Christ is the head. Consequently the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. You see then at the very beginning, on what a vantage ground we stand in these days,—members one of another,—and thank God, man's folly cannot disturb the relationship that exists between believer and believer, and the believer and Jesus through the Holy Ghost. We break up into sects and systems, but the unity that exists before God is complete, for we are members one of another, and altogether members of His body who sent down His Spirit thus to unite us to Him and to each other.

Now turn to John 15: 26, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." John 16: 7, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not