

your Heavenly Father is more willing to bestow this gift for the asking than any parent gives bread to his hungry child.

At first sight it would seem that this would settle the whole business, and leave without excuse all who do not at once receive the gift divine, and henceforth witness in Pentecostal power to its reception. But hard, stubborn facts prove to us that this flippant way of stating the process will not meet the need of multitudes who are sighing after the fulness of the Spirit; we will therefore try to be more elaborate in our directions to the seeking ones.

#### PRELIMINARIES.

In the first place, have you a clear consciousness of the pardon of all past sins and of present acceptance with God? This seems like a superfluous question, for we are just now discoursing to believers; still, the Apostolic injunction is ever in order, "Examine yourselves." If the soul is perfectly honest before God this is not a lengthened process, but if there is the least dishonesty, that is, concealment of purpose in the heart, you cannot receive this gift of God. If there is any habit attaching itself to the body or the mind, any preconceived notions or reasonings which you cannot give absolutely into the hands of your Heavenly Father, to be taught of the Spirit concerning the rightness or wrongness of them, with the heart purpose to obey God rather than man concerning them, in vain you will cry for, or exercise faith for, your individual Pentecost, for, "If we regard iniquity in our heart the Lord will not hear us."

#### WHO DECIDES.

We do not say that you are called on to decide concerning these things and act out your decisions in life; that were to ask you to place the effect before the cause. We emphasize this thought, because the contrary is often insisted on by modern teachers, hence some will insist upon your changing your apparel according to some presumed Bible standard; others insist on giving up certain habits, forsaking certain societies, etc., as a necessary preparation for the incoming Comforter. But this, we maintain,

is a purely human addition to Scripture rules. Read for yourself and you will find no such cumbersome rules connected with apostolic practice. To the multitude on the day of Pentecost Peter prescribed simple repentance and acceptance of Christ in baptism, promising them at once the Pentecostal gift; and this is the true representative example, as you will see by comparing it with every instance recorded where the gift of the Holy Ghost was received. Hence we insist upon it, *you* have not the regulating of these things, but are called upon to receive the Holy Ghost that *He* may regulate them for you. And we add, that it is not necessary that you have correct notions as to the rightness or wrongness of these questions. What you have to do is to receive Him without prejudice as the future regulator or guide into all truth concerning doubtful or desirable things, with the understanding that you are to carry out His instructions minutely concerning these and all other matters, and with the understanding, or promise, on His part, that He will so work in you by His mighty power that you will do His will with gladness, and in the divine strength imparted to you.

#### A PARTICULAR CASE.

But here is one who says, I was once clearly converted. Since then I received the blessing of a clean heart. There is no doubt about the experience in my mind at the present moment. Now it seems to me that I must have this Pentecostal gift because I received the blessing of purity, or of holiness, and retain it at the present time.

Now we remark here, that possessing this gift of power is a case of identification, not of inferential reasoning, even in part. Compare your life, your experience, with that of the early Christians, and with the history and precepts of the Apostles, and if under the clear light of the Spirit's presence you find no mark of identification wanting, then gladly witness and labor with us to bring others into like precious faith.

But if there is a conscious lack of power for aggressive work, of joy and satisfaction in your Christian life, if, in short, the Comforter in His conscious