

ing and work, too. And there is no work the Church has done in India that has done more to commend the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Hindus and Mohammedans of India than this work which has been done on behalf of the orphans. The V. I. O. S. deserves praise for the way in which it has taken up and is maintaining this good work.

A. P. LEDINGHAM,
(of Rasalpara, India.)

P.S.—Any information in connection with this work, or contribution for the same, will receive prompt attention from the Secretary-Treasurer.

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LESSON,—SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1909.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit.

Acts ii., 1-11. Memory verses 2-4. Read Acts ii., 1-21.

Golden Text.

I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter that He may abide with you for ever; even the spirit of truth. John xiv., 16, 17.

Home Readings.

- Monday, January 4.—Acts ii., 1-11.
- Tuesday, January 5.—Acts ii., 12-21.
- Wednesday, January 6.—Joel ii., 21-32.
- Thursday, January 7.—John xiv., 15-26.
- Friday, January 8.—John xvi., 4-14.
- Saturday, January 9.—I. Cor. xii., 1-13.
- Sunday, January 10.—Rom. viii., 1-14.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

Were you ever promised anything at a certain time, Willie, perhaps on your birthday? Suppose that your little brother had broken your toy gun and mother said 'Never mind, Will, your birthday is coming soon and you shall have another one, one that you can shoot much better with. I'll see father about it.' Would that make the loss of your old one easier to bear? What would you be thinking about in the days before your birthday came? You'd be thinking 'I wonder what kind of a gun father'll get me. I hope he won't forget about it,' wouldn't you? and you'd be planning what you would do with it when it came. Perhaps you'd remind father that your birthday was coming, if you thought he was going to forget, wouldn't you? Now when you are just boys, all of you, you want a great many things, don't you? and you want them very much. When you grow up do you think you will want the same things, or will you want others? Well, some of you will want to be very clever, some will want to be rich, and all I hope will want to be good men, strong and true. Sometimes you will be disappointed about the things you want. Even when some men do get rich they don't get happy, and some clever men, too, have been very unhappy. Perhaps, too, you won't be able to be rich or clever, but you can always be good true men because if you really want to be, God will always help you. Last Sunday we were learning about the disciples of Christ and how sad they were when Jesus had to go away and leave them, but Jesus had promised to send them some one to take his place on earth, to be always with them, and in our lesson to-day we learn about how God's Holy Spirit did come as Christ promised them he would.

FOR THE SENIORS.

To-day's lesson is full of matter for thought in the older classes. At the outset comes the question of the power of united prayer, of continued supplication, of the pleading of God's promises, in fact the whole

question of prayer, and why it is that to-day the church makes so little use of this mighty weapon. The gift and presence of the Holy Spirit, the visible signs, and the gift of tongues, all open fascinating fields of discussion. About the gift of tongues there are a great many varying opinions, and scholars have come to no agreement. It seems to have been a sign whose power was advisable in the early church, but which did not last for long. The church once firmly established did not need the witness of this sign any more than it required the witness of miraculous healing. But the subject is of very real interest. After our Lord's Ascension the little band of workers realized to the full their responsibility and set to work at once to do all in their power, repairing their broken ranks (Acts i., 21, 22), gathering their forces (verses 14, 15), and obeying the last command of their Lord to wait in Jerusalem. They were united, they were consecrated, they were obedient, and in ten days the blessing came. Came so that the city was moved, came so that they could not contain the bounteous outpouring and their immediate impulse was to spread the good news abroad. The visible and audible manifestation of the coming of God's Spirit is not necessary to-day for He is here with us, and from that day to this has not left God's people. Our God has been gracious to the utmost; He cannot give us more than he has given; it only remains for us to realize our heritage and accept and make use of the powers that are ready to our hands. The church has a mighty work, but she has unlimited resources on which to draw if she only will.

(SELECTIONS FROM TARBELL'S 'GUIDE.')

A Great Mystery.—How mysterious the whole problem is! The Holy Spirit is in us, working in us to do God's good pleasure; but yet how much of our life is due to Him, and how much is really ours? These motives by which we are moved; how many of them come from Heaven and how many of them come from the earth? These impulses that drive us in a certain direction, how many of them are the creation of the Spirit, and how many of them are the creation of our own flesh? How can any man tell how fully God has taken possession of his life? All this is a great mystery; but it is the same sort of mystery which we face every time we think about the action of the mind upon the body. How does the human spirit act upon the body? Nobody knows. And how does one mind influence another mind? We speak familiarly of influence—we influence others and are in turn influenced by them; but what is this something which we call influence? and how can one mind be molded and turned by another? If we can not answer questions like these, why should we be surprised that we can not follow the processes of God's activity when He is at work in the heart of man? If we can not explain the action of the human mind, much less may we hope to be able to explain the mind of God.

But while we move amid great mysteries, there are certain things clear as the sun at noon. The Christian religion makes the declaration positive and unmistakable that there is such a person as the Holy Spirit. He is real and as personal and as mighty as Christ is, as God the Father is.—Charles Edward Jefferson, in Things Fundamental.

William Carey's 'gift of tongues.'—This great missionary translated the Bible into four languages, and superintended the translation into three others and the translation of portions of the Scriptures into thirty-six more! 'The life work of William Carey is one of the most wonderful which our world has seen, not less for its difficulty, its amount, its enthusiasm, and its influence over the history of the race, than for the humility, the gentleness, the patience of the great heart that undertook and carried it forward without weariness until the close of his brilliant career.'

The Gospel can be told in All Earth's Many Tongues.—You can not translate other religious systems as you can this. All others need language kindred to that of their original soil. But the gospel can be put into any tongue which men speak, and will refine and purify it. Luther's Bible made the German language what it is.—Alexander Maclaren.

I have so much to do to-day I shall not be able to get through it without much time in prayer.—Martin Luther.

You have God's power when God has all of you.—J. F. Carson.

The great question is, not what the Holy Spirit is, but what He does in the soul of the believing man.—A. B. Bruce.

The history of any great revival is a record of the Spirit's coming upon assemblies of Christians, and thus giving the tongue of fire to individuals.—A. C. Dixon.

The poverty of many professing Christians in regard to spiritual gifts is directly due to the smallness of their expectations and desires.—Alexander Maclaren.

(FROM PELOUBET'S 'NOTES.')

There are two ways in which God answers prayer for spiritual gifts: (1) by the gift itself, (2) the other by making the soul capable of receiving the gift in full measure. Both kinds of answers were given to this praying company.

Illustrations.—God can give the sunlight, and he can open blind eyes to receive it, or ordinary eyes to clearer sight.

The sun is shining on our homes, but we can close our blinds and let cobwebs shut out the light. We need a spiritual throwing wide open of all the prejudices, worldliness, selfishness, that keep the Holy Spirit from shining into our inmost souls.

Illustration From Mr. Moody's Experience.—'I can myself go back almost twelve years, and remember two holy women who used to come to my meetings. It was delightful to see them there. When I began to preach, I could tell by the expression of their faces that they were praying for me. At the close of the Sabbath evening meetings they would say to me, "We have been praying for you." I said, "Why don't you pray for the people?" They answered, "You need the power." "I need power!" I said to myself, "Why, I thought I had power." I had a large Sabbath school, and the largest congregation in Chicago. There were "some" conversions at the time. I was, in a sense, satisfied. But, right along, these two godly women kept praying for me, and their earnest talk about anointing for special services set me thinking. I asked them to come and talk with me, and we got down on our knees. They poured out their hearts that I might receive an anointing from the Holy Spirit, "and there came a great hunger into my soul." I did not know what it was. I began to cry as I never did before. The hunger increased. I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day in the city of New York—oh, what a day! I cannot describe it; I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for fourteen years. I can only say God then revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths; and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you would give me all Glasgow—it would be as the small dust of the balance.'—Dwight L. Moody in address at Glasgow.

Bible References.

I. Cor. xiv., 1-33; Matt. 18, 19; Luke xi., 13; I. Cor. iii., 16; Luke xviii., 1; I. Thess. v., 17.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, January 10.—Topic—A good prayer meeting. Acts i., 12-14.

C. E. Topic.

Monday, January 4.—Live the eternal life. Matt. xix., 16-26.

Tuesday, January 5.—A man that lived for self. Luke xii., 16-21.

Wednesday, January 6.—How Jesus lived. Heb. xii., 1-5.

Thursday, January 7.—The life of faith. Matt. v., 19, 20, 25-34.

Friday, January 8.—Looking beyond. II. Cor. iv., 16-18.

Saturday, January 9.—The abiding life. I. Cor. xiii., 1-13.

Sunday, January 10.—Topic—Living for the day or for eternity. Heb. vii., 15, 16; Matt. xvi., 24-27.