

THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE.

III. "Be filled with the Spirit." How ?

"I indeed baptize you with water. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

A wonderful age has just disappeared beneath the horizon of the unreturning past. In it God has condescended to dwell with men, and a faithful few had shone with an aureole of glory as they stood in His presence. One had foredated the resurrection and "was not, for God took him," another had sat in conference with God on the Sapphire stone and had tasted the sweet serenity of summitless sublimity, while a third had swept the invisible highway in the softest, springiest omnibus of the heavenly liveries drawn by fiery chargers. The Theocracy was by no means a failure, for it accomplished its God-ordained and God-appointed purpose. He, who openeth and no man shutteth, throws open the door of a new and larger opportunity to the race. John, than whom no greater prophet had been born, had appeared, appointed and anointed by the pre-natal fulness of the Spirit's power. He had come from the wilderness like a whirlwind of fire. He had swayed and subdued immense audiences by the Sinaitic thunderings and lurid lightnings of the Gospel of repentance. He was the morning star of the better day that was to usher in the dispensation of the Holy Ghost and the clairaudient ear can hear the winds of prophetic Pentecost already, blowing before it the whitening leaves of the old dispensation's autumnal arbors. John took the lowliest attitude before God and was lost, nay rather found, in the loftiest altitude with God, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

(A) The Baptizer.

About a generation before, a Babe was born in the stable of an inn, in the Roman province of Judea. That Child that was called Wonderful, was destined to make an unprecedented and unparalleled impress on the history of the world.

Cæsar Augustus, at the birth of Christ, could do what he pleased with the property and liberty, and control the heart