

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Concerning the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

SISTER H S MCPHERSON

When the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place, and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them, and they were all filled with the HOLY GHOST AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES as the Spirit gave them utterance. There were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

Q How many were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, and who were they?

A There about one hundred and twenty Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, Simon, Judas, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, with his brothers are amongst those mentioned.

Q Were these hundred and twenty saved, sanctified people?

A Yes. Jesus had said now are ye clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you. John, 15:3. The disciples were filled with joy and peace in believing, and who would dare to say that the virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, was an unsanctified woman? An angel had told her that she was blessed among women, and had found favor with God.

Q If they were already saved, sanctified people, then for what were they waiting on the day of Pentecost?

A They were waiting for the coming of the Holy Ghost, Jesus had said tarry in Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Q What supernatural evidence did they have when the Holy Ghost came upon them?

A 1st There was a sound as of a rushing mighty wind, 2nd tongues of fire sat upon each of them, 3rd they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Q Did all these signs follow in other places where it is recorded that believers received the Holy Ghost?

A No, the wind and fire is not again mentioned, but they spake in other tongues, the same as on the day of Pentecost.

Q What is meant by the words "Speaking with other tongues?" Does it mean that while they were sinners they used to swear and use worldly language, and now that after receiving the Holy Spirit they say, "Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!" etc?

A No. Hallelujah and praise the Lord were not new words, as David and many others used them in praising the Lord. Those receiving the Holy Ghost spoke in clear languages that they had never learned, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Q How do you know they spoke in languages they had never learned?

A Because the Jews who were at that time assembled in Jerusalem, from every nation under heaven, were confounded because that every man heard them speak in their own language, and in the tongue wherein they were born. And they were all amazed and marveled saying, "Are not all these Galileans?" Acts 2.

Q Did the Lord speak in these other languages through the hundred and twenty on the day of Pentecost, in order to preach to the foreigners in Jerusalem?

A No, it was not done in order to convince foreigners, for to begin with there no foreigners in Jerusalem. We read that they were Jews, not foreigners, but Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. It was not at all necessary to speak to them in the language of the country wherein they were born, for every Jew understood his own mother tongue. All their Jewish feasts and services were conducted in their own language also. Peter preached in his own language and they understood and were saved.

Q Are there any other instances cited in the Bible where those receiving the Holy Ghost spake in other tongues?

A Yes. Acts 10:44, tells of Peter going down to preach to the Gentiles and states that while Peter was preaching to them of

Jesus, the Holy Ghost fell on them that heard the word. Then the Jews who came with Peter were astonished that upon the Gentiles also the Holy Ghost was poured out.

Q How did Peter and the Jews know that the Gentiles had received the Holy Ghost?

A For they heard them speak with other tongues, and magnify God. Acts 10:46

Q Were there any foreigners there to convince?

A No, they were all Gentiles and of the house of the Gentiles.

Q Are there any more instances where those receiving the Holy Ghost spake in tongues at the time they received?

A Yes, Acts 19 shows Paul coming to Ephesus, where he finding certain disciples, asked them the question, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" They answered that they had not even heard whether there was any Holy Ghost. Then when Paul had laid his hands upon them the Holy Ghost came on them AND THEY SPAKE IN TONGUES and prophesied.

Q In Acts, 8:15, what do you suppose Simon, the sorcerer, saw when he offered to pay money for the same power to lay hands on people that they should receive the Holy Ghost?

A Undoubtedly they spake in other tongues, and received as the disciples did in the beginning.

Q Did Paul speak in tongues when he received the Holy Ghost?

A Yes. Paul says, "I thank God I speak with tongues more than you all." 1 Cor 14:18

Q Is there any difference between speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and the gift of tongues?

A Yes, all who receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost speak in tongues involuntarily, as the Spirit gives utterance. Not all, in fact few, receive the gift of tongues. We have met some, however, who could speak at will to foreigners in their own language telling them of Jesus and have witnessed wonderful results.

Q Would you advise any one to seek to speak in tongues?

A Never! Seek the Holy Ghost and when He comes you will speak in tongues as He gives utterance.

Q What is the use of this sign of tongues which accompanies the incoming Spirit?

A When you walk down the street look-

ing for a barber, first you look for a *red and white pole*, the *sign*, in other words. When you are looking for dinner you look for a sign that says, *Restaurant*. The barber's pole can not shave you, neither can the wooden restaurant sign feed you, but they are just signs to indicate that behind those doors there is a barber who can serve you, or within the restaurant doors there is food that will satisfy your hunger. So it is with the Bible signs, the speaking in tongues. It indicates that the Comforter has come to abide within.

Q When speaking in tongues, does the one speaking understand what he is saying?

A 1 Cor 14 Chapter, Paul says, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God for no man understandeth him, howbeit in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries. If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. Wherefore let him that SPEAKETH IN AN UNKNOWN TONGUES PRAY THAT HE MAY INTERPRET."

Q Of what use is the speaking in tongues, outside of being the evidence of the indwelling Spirit?

A 1 Cor 14:21, Tongues are a sign to them that believe not, also he that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself, verse 4. My spirit prayeth, verse 14. Verily thou giveth thanks well, verse 17, also he speaks of Jesus and His soon coming.

Q Was the baptism of the Holy Ghost only for the early church, or may He still be received today?

A Acts 2:38, Peter says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you unto the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost for the promise is unto you and your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Now if God has called you the promise is unto you.

Q Has the Lord a new fashioned twentieth century method of baptizing believers with the Holy Ghost? Or does He still fill them, and accompany the infilling with the same Bible evidence speaking in tongues as He did in the days of old?

A No, the Lord has not changed just as there is only one way to be saved and that is through Jesus' precious blood even so there is just one way to receive the Holy Ghost, and that is as they did on the day of

Pentecost The way Peter received, and Mary and all the saints is good enough for me Why should we be an exception to the rule?

Q Have you ever personally witnessed any one receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost in this wonderful manner?

A Yes, bless God! I myself have received the Holy Ghost and spake in languages I never learned Rivers of praise and billows of glory swept over my soul, and best of all He abides today to praise, exalt and glorify Jesus in His beauty I have personally witnessed in the vicinity of ten thousand believers receiving the baptism of the Spirit, ministers, Sunday School teachers, church members, new converts, rich, poor, old and young The Lord is pouring out of His Spirit upon all flesh

Q Did all these speak in other tongues?

A Without any exception, all had this same Bible evidence, as recorded in the Word of God

Q Can a sinner receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

A No! The Spirit is with the sinner to convict him of sin, when he comes to the cross and the blood is applied to his heart the Spirit bears witness with His spirit that he is a child of God Then, after the heart is clean, and the temple holy the believer is a candidate for the incoming of the Holy Ghost Jesus is God's love gift to the sinner, the Holy Ghost is His gift to the believer

Search the Word, seek earnestly and humbly on your knees, and you too will receive Enter through the gates of praise Jesus is more willing to give the Spirit than you are to receive Luke 11 9-13

### HUNGERING AFTER GOD

SISTER H S McPHERSON

*"I will pour water on him that is thirsty,  
I will pour floods upon the dry ground,  
Open your hearts for the gifts I am bringing  
While ye are seeking me, I will be found"*

Jesus says BLESSED are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled But a woe is pronounced upon the people who feel no hunger and are satisfied "Woe unto you who are full, now, for you shall hunger hereafter" O, dear heart, if you have hunger in your heart, cherish and encourage that hunger as you

would your life It is put there by the Holy Spirit to lead you closer to God

I do not know of a more serious or lamentable condition, or a person more to be pitied than they who have no heart hunger and thirst after a deeper revelation of God and His Son Jesus Christ, and are satisfied and content with past blessings, not longing to go on to perfection Time after time in our meetings I have gazed with amazement into the faces of people who would say with a satisfied air, "Oh, I've got all that the Lord has for me and am as good as I ever hope to be" Woe unto you who are full now on a shallow experience Repent and ask Jesus to give you a real deep hunger for Himself and He will do it What a high standard God's Word sets for us! We should not stop pressing on till changed from glory unto glory At last in Heaven we take our place and we cast our crowns before Him, lost in wonder, love and praise Dear struggling soul in a half dead church, or in a valley of dry bones, don't try to crush that hunger in your soul It is the hand of God come to lead you on to a place where you can say, "It is no more I, but Christ that lives in me" For indeed it is as we decrease that He increases

When I hear someone telling what a great person they are and how good they live, I cannot help pitying and saying to myself, "Poor soul!" They are so far from God and behold Him from afar off We have learned that the nearer that we get to Jesus, the smaller and more imperfect our own self life appears in our eyes and He grows bigger and more perfect and lovely at each onward step till, as He stands revealed in the light of righteousness, we fall prostrate at His feet and cry with Job, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes

When crossing the Rocky Mountains in a train one time, we saw them before us miles in the distance before we reached their base When we were afar off they looked so small and insignificant, we and the train seemed so big, but the nearer we came to them, the larger the mountains grew, till as we were at their feet, they had expanded and grown till as revealed to our wondering eyes they seemed to rise clear into the Heavens and were lost in the clouds We seemed appallingly little and helpless and insignificant That is just like our ap-