

## 2.—WHAT RICH PROMISES DID JESUS MAKE CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT?

On the last night before His death, Jesus had more to say about the Holy Spirit than at any other time in His ministry (see John 14, 15 and 16). These chapters contain the concentrated essence of Jesus' message to men—the rarest and richest treasure of the New Testament. This is saving truth in its simplest and most accessible form.

Five rich promises concerning the Holy Spirit were made by Jesus in the upper room: He would be "Another Comforter"—Christ's Other Self (John 14:16).

He would actually dwell in men—not merely with them (John 14:17).

He would be to the disciples all that Jesus had been—and more (John 14:16; 16:7).

He would take the things of Christ, and make them available to men (John 16:14, 15).

He would enable Jesus to live His victorious life in His disciples (John 14:18, 23).

In these chapters Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit would forge the last, indispensable link in the chain of human redemption. He would lift men out of the pit of baffled impotence and despair into a new dimension of life, power and victory. He would place the infinite resources of heaven at every believer's immediate disposal. Through the Holy Spirit the saving life of God would actually enter and take possession of the souls of men!

This completes the Gospel provision. It exhausts God's resources. It empties heaven. Beyond the gift of the Holy Spirit there is nothing more that God can do for our salvation.

## 3.—HOW IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK RELATED TO THE SAVING WORK OF CHRIST?

The work of the Spirit is never in competition with, or in opposition to, the work of Christ. The Incarnation of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost are two parts of the one glorious transaction. The indwelling of the Spirit is the climax and consummation of the Incarnation; the goal of redemption in this present life; the supreme objective towards which the earthly work of Jesus pointed. The saving work of the Spirit of God is simply the continuation and completion of the saving work of Christ. This is shown by the following chart:

JESUS	THE HOLY SPIRIT
<i>Begins the Salvation process</i>	<i>Continues and completes the Salvation process</i>
<i>God dwelling WITH men</i>	<i>God dwelling IN men</i>
<i>Handicapped by a human body</i>	<i>Not handicapped by a human body</i>
<i>Present only in one place at one time</i>	<i>Present everywhere at all times</i>
<i>Accessible to a few people only, in one land, in one generation</i>	<i>Accessible to all people, in all lands, in all generations</i>
<i>The PATTERN for victorious living</i>	<i>The POWER for victorious living</i>

From this comparison it is evident that the Christian life is something far more than a valiant struggle on our part to "build a Christlike character", brick by brick, in the energies of the flesh. It is more than a mere humanistic striving to "be good". It is more than a strenuous effort to "imitate the beauty of Christ". It is the reproduction within us of His Divine character, by the superhuman energy of the Holy Spirit!

Eph. 3:16, 17: "Strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts."