

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to take the facts of the Gospel and translate them into living deeds. He makes the saving life and power of Christ directly available to men. Christ's work during His incarnation was the work of provision. As the Great Physician, He prescribed the Gospel medicine and prepared it. The Holy Spirit's work is the work of application. He is like the gentle Nurse who pours the Gospel medicine into a spoon and actually administers it!

S. D. Gordon expresses the same truth in this picturesque way: "The Lord Jesus draws a cheque for my use. The Holy Spirit cashes the cheque and puts the money into my hands!" (Quiet Talks on Power, p. 64).

#### 4.—WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKE IN OUR LIVES?

Gal. 5 : 22, 23: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace", etc.

The difference can best be seen by studying the lives of those who have experienced His power. For example, Christ's disciples, before receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2 : 1-4), were a group of cowardly, quarrelsome, defeated, despairing men. After Pentecost they were united, enthusiastic, bold, invincible. This dramatic change in the mood of the disciples is like moving out of winter into spring! The early chapters of the book of Acts are alive with buoyant phrases such as: "Great joy" (Acts 2 : 46; 5 : 41; 8 : 8; 13 : 52); Great "boldness" (4 : 13, 20, 29, 31); "Great power" (4 : 33); "Great grace" (4 : 33); and "Great wonders" (6 : 8). The indwelling and possession of the Spirit of God will produce the same results in our lives today!

Says Ellen G. White: "The work of the Spirit upon the soul will reveal itself in every act of him who has felt its saving power. When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility and peace take the place of anger, envy and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven" (Desire of Ages, pp. 172, 173).

#### 5.—HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

This is by far the most critical point in our personal knowledge of the Gospel! It is at the point of their application to human life that all our theories of Christianity must ultimately be tested.

Whilst the New Testament contains no neat, cut-and-dried formula, it does reveal a pattern. It shows that the method of receiving the Holy Spirit follows much the same course as what we call "falling in love". As a matter of fact, someone has aptly described the Christian life as "a long falling in love with God".

How do we "fall in love" on the human level?

Love begins with mutual attraction—a subtle magnetism; a deep, persistent "ache" for the society of one other person.

The second step is a drawing near. Nearness is the soul of love.

Nearness leads to mutual self-surrender. Nothing has been scrupulously weighed out or measured, but the barriers of reserve have been taken down, heart has been given to heart, and each knows that he or she belongs to the other person.

Out of this self-surrender trust emerges. Trust becomes the medium through which life and thought, ideals and enthusiasms, hopes and dreams and confidences can be communicated to each other.

Finally, trust develops into a programme of continual adjustment. The ultimate proof of love is a willingness to "put self aside" on a life-long basis, and "make room", habitually, for the wishes, tastes and preferences of the loved one.