

=THE HOLY SPIRIT=

Lesson 14

The Fullness of the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION: Many hundreds of years ago in Joel 2:28, 29, God made a promise that someday a wonderful thing would happen. He promised that He would give us some help in our soul winning. He realized that it would not be an easy thing for us to go to people that we did not know and tell them about a Saviour that they could not see and try to persuade them to trust Him as their own personal Saviour. Because of this, He promised to be with us and to give us Someone to talk to the person while we are talking to them. This Someone is the Holy Spirit. Perhaps you have noticed that at times when you are witnessing about Jesus, there seems to be Someone else on the inside of the person talking to him and persuading him on the inside while you are persuading him from the outside. God promised that someday His children could have this help in soul winning. Let us notice some things about this promise.

- I. **GOD PROMISED IT IN JOEL 2:28, 29.** “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” He promised that this would happen someday in the distant future. This would mean that any Christian who wanted to go soul winning could have help while he did so. God would help him through His Spirit. His Spirit would speak to people on the inside while he spoke to people on the outside.

- II. **JESUS REMINDED US OF THAT PROMISE IN LUKE 24:49.** “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Notice the words, “promise of my Father.” Hundreds of years had passed, but God had not forgotten His promise. He is going to keep His promise. (Teacher, spend some time here teaching the pupils the importance of keeping their promises. Tell them how important it is to tell the truth and always to keep their word.) Jesus is reminding them that the fulfillment of that promise is getting closer. Notice what it is called. It is called “the promise of my Father,” and then it is called “endued with power from on high.” This is the same promise that God had given hundreds of years before.

- III. **WE MUST BEG GOD TO GIVE US THIS HELP IN SOUL WINNING.** Acts 1:4, “And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.” God does not give this help quickly. We have to ask Him for it and ask Him again and ask Him again and ask Him again. Anybody can have this power. Back in the book of Joel, God promised it was for young people, for old people, for rich people, for poor people, for masters, for servants, and for everybody. If you are a multi-millionaire, it is for you. If you are a little primary boy or girl who has received Christ, it is for you. God wants to help primaries as they witness to primaries. He wants to help juniors as they witness to juniors. He wants to help young people as they witness, and He wants to help adults as they witness. He reminds us that we must ask Him for this power and for this Friend (the Holy Spirit) to help us while we are winning souls. We must wait for it and plead with God to give it to us. Notice in Acts 1:5 this promise is called being “baptized with the Holy Ghost.” It was called in Luke 24:49, “the promise of my Father,” and being “endued with power.” Now it is called the “baptism of the Holy Ghost.” This is simply a time when God decides to help a person in soul winning. It has nothing to do with speaking in tongues. It has nothing to do with sinless perfection. It has nothing to do with the second blessing. It is simply another term for the power that God gives each of us as we talk about Jesus. In this verse it is called “baptism,” which means a person gets to the place where he gives his entire self to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit helps him as he tells folks about Jesus. If we sing about Jesus, He will help us. If we write a letter about Jesus, He will help us. If we talk to someone about Jesus, He will help us. If we play the piano for Jesus, He will help us. Whatever we do, this Person helps us as He tries to work in the heart of the person or persons to whom we are talking, etc.

- IV. **THIS SAME POWER IS CALLED “THE HOLY GHOST UPON US.”** Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Now we have another title for the same thing. It is called “the Holy Ghost upon you,” “baptism of the Holy Ghost,” “endowment of

power,” “pouring out of the Holy Spirit,” and “promise of my Father.” All of these are talking about a simple and yet wonderful thing that happens if we keep asking God, and that is, He gives us help as we serve Him and as we tell others about Him. Notice in the last part of Acts 1:8 what its purpose is. It is that we might be witnesses. It is not to make us feel good, though it does make us feel good. It is not to make us sinlessly perfect, though it does make us better. It is to help us as we talk about Jesus. (Teacher, discuss with the pupils here the times that they have said a word about Jesus in witnessing, and ask if they have ever noticed that it seemed like the person was being convicted by Someone else.)

- V. IT IS ALSO CALLED “BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST.” Acts 2:4, “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Now we have another title for the same thing. It is called “baptism of the Holy Ghost,” “the fullness of the Holy Spirit,” “endowment of power,” “the Holy Ghost upon you,” “the promise of my Father,” and “the pouring out of the Holy Ghost.” All of these things are talking about the same wonderful thing and that is help in soul winning.

CONCLUSION: See Acts 2:14-18. You will notice that Peter is preaching on Pentecost, and he tells the people that the promise is now come. God has kept His promise through these many hundreds of years. Notice in verse 17 it is for the sons (boys); it is for the daughters (girls); it is for the young men (teenagers); it is for the old men. In verse 18 we see that it is for the servants and the handmaidens. It is for all of us. All of us are supposed to go soul winning, and Jesus said, “I don’t want you to go alone. I want Someone to go with you to help you as you talk about Me.” That Someone is the Holy Spirit, and He persuades people from the inside as we persuade from the outside. Again, remember that He does it only in response to our asking and asking and asking and, yes, even pleading. Have you ever told anybody about Jesus? Then you need this Friend! Ask Him every day to help you and to give you this help. That’s what it is all about. Did you ever talk to someone about Jesus and it seemed you were not getting through to them? Did you feel like you needed some help? That help is available if you will ask God for it and plead with Him to go with you as you go soul winning and to give you this “endowment of power,” this “baptism of the Holy Spirit,” this “fulness of the Holy Spirit,” this “pouring out of the Holy Ghost,” this “promise of my Father,” this “Holy Ghost upon you.” All of these are terms that talk about the wonderful thing that happens when a Christian for the first time begins to receive this help.