

The Holy Spirit's Work

Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost-Acts 2:38

Just as the line of our Lord Christ's work was unknown to people while He was upon this earth, so also is the Holy Spirit's line of work unknown to the world in our time. The graves of the prophets were beautified and their deeds were praised after the fact. People do the same to Christ now. But the Spirit which worked in the prophets and works now in the believers is strange and unknown to the world. It is because of the enmity between the seed of the woman and the serpent.

Upon promising to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples, Jesus said that the world cannot receive it. Because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth; the world cannot stand it. The Holy Spirit functions now as it did during the time of the early congregation. The communion of saints, the holy congregation is among us. Through the gospel the Holy Spirit has called, gathered, sanctified, and continually fortified it with its gifts. Therein have appeared its effects, outward and inward signs, which the Bible shows to be the Holy Spirit's work. The Holy Spirit will not depart from the congregation of God but will remain with it to the end of the world. Otherwise the head would be without the body and Christ without the congregation.

The narrative of the miracle of Pentecost is among the most beautiful parts in the Holy Book. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" begins the history of the New Testament congregation. "Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Jesus said to those who became partakers of the heavenly calling. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." When the lame man was healed, the number of the disciples in Jerusalem was close to five thousand. A congregation of the Holy Spirit came to Samaria when Peter and John put their hands upon those who had come into faith. And the Holy Spirit was shed upon all the Gentiles gathered in the house of Cornelius.

So it has always happened and yet happens in the Holy Spirit's line of work. But not even one who has not been born again is able to see the kingdom of God. The wind of the Holy Spirit blows through villages, and people marvel when they hear and see its effects. But when there is neither experience nor the eyes of the Spirit opened to see spiritual matters, the natural man cannot understand those which are of the Spirit of God. The mysteries of the kingdom of God are hidden from human wisdom. Therefore everyone who has been called from darkness to the marvelous light of the Spirit wonders at the blindness in which they had been.

The secret self-righteousness of the heart is terrified by the sermon of faith, the gospel, by which the Holy Spirit is received. In the sermon of faith is said. "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." So, brothers and sisters, be of good cheer for the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. The Father himself gave it; it was preached in the name of the Lord and is yet preached. It turns our eyes from our own hearts to behold the heart of God. It gives faith, which owns Christ and His good works. In that faith the love of God is shed into our hearts and the Holy Spirit has given us the seal of peace. For this thanks, honor, and praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit now and forever.

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