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BAPTISMAL GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Erwin Cowen.. Moten

Baptism in the Holy Spirit was never imparted by men through any means whatsoever. It came direct from God in a most astonishing demonstration of power. It was never accompanied by the least confusion or excitement, but moved those receiving it to speak words as sensible and understandable as they were sublime.

The New Testament gives but two cases of the Holy Ghost baptism being received by men. One of these was when the Apostles received that Gift on the day of Pentecost [Acts 2;1-5] and the other was when it was bestowed upon Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44-48) Each is called a baptism. [Acts 1;5 and Acts 11:16, 17] No other case is called such, although several Gifts are mentioned in the New Testament.

The baptism on the day of Pentecost resulted in giving the inspiration which made them infallible teachers. That inspiration was not for them individually but for the rest of the world who should read their writings or hear their word, as on the Day of Pentecost.

The Apostles therefore became the Medium through whom the Holy Spirit could reach the world with the Truth. Their speaking in tongues was to enable all nations to hear and understand the Word of God since through the Gift, they

could speak in every tongue or language spoken by men of any nation.

The Apostles therefore, were only the Medium through which we might have the pure and infallible word of God to guide us.

The Gift then was for us rather than the Apostles who received it.

Like wise the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which was bestowed upon Cornelius was not for him personally, but that the Jews present including Peter, might know that God had authorized the Gospel preached to the Gentiles and their baptism into Christ unto the remission of sins, exactly like the Jews beginning on the day of Pentecost. Cornelius himself in a personal way received nothing through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was given him for the benefit of others, the Jews and the Apostle Peter, to convince them that the Gospel should be extended to the Gentiles, hence, as soon as Peter saw the Gift poured out upon Cornelius, he demanded of the Jews present, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. (Acts 10;47-48) That states the purpose of the Gift to Cornelius. It was to convince the Jews that the Gentiles were to be baptized into Christ exactly as the Jews had been. So far as we are informed, Cornelius did not retain the Gift as a personal

benefit to himself, it having served its purpose was withdrawn, leaving him responsible to the command to be baptized in water, as were all Jews.

If he retained the Gift beyond that days work it is nowhere mentioned.

Now in both instances the Gift was accompanied by the Power to speak in tongues which had never been learned. A miracle of the highest sort. (Acts 2;4; 10;46)

To speak in a tongue was to speak in a known language of men; a language not known by the speaker himself. Such was the nature of the Gift in the only two cases where it is recorded.

God employed the Holy Spirit Baptism to introduce the Gospel system to men: once to Jews at Pentecost, and once to Gentiles, at the house of Cornelius. It was never again needed because those two classes embraced the whole human family. He employed the lesser Gifts nine in number given through the laying on of hands, "to keep the infant church under protection and spiritual nourishment until the perfect New Testament Law could be completed, when being no longer needed they were done away. [2 Cor. 13: 8-13. Eph. 4;11-17]

But the Common Gift remains because the necessity to repent and be baptized remains, and this Gift always follows baptism. Keep these Gifts which have been discussed in three parts distinct, then we should never become confused over the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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EDITORIAL

VIOLA.. AGAIN

We are all proud of the work we have done at Viola. As you passed that way, you no doubt have been elated at the fine location and building that is going up.

We are now nearing the end of the road. With all the donated labor, the building will well be worth twice its cost. Brethren at Viola have stretched every dollar. All material has been bought and paid for. The rock yet lacks putting up. The inside needs sanding. Six weeks should see this work completed.

The money on hand is exhausted. We have no seats, but Bro. T. E. Burch of Wewoka, Okla. has graciously accepted the responsibility upon himself and Bro. Henry Harber of Seminole, Okla. of raising funds among themselves and Oklahoma brethren to seat the building if we here would complete the building. May the Lord bless such brethren.

As this goes to press only about \$200 lacks being raised to complete the job. Of this amount the brethren at Agnos have sent a check for \$100. There are those

of you who have intended to help and haven't, now is the time. Should there be those who have helped and wanted to help more later, now is the time. Even those small contributions will count much in this last stage and the \$175.00 will go down fast.

Watch for announcement of the dedication day. The Viola brethren will welcome you in your rejoicing.

With the Spirit of God in our hearts and our eyes fastened upon heaven, with the word as the sword in our hand, we can put to flight the enemies of Jesus Christ.

THE NEED OF REPENTANCE Orbie Robbins.. Elizabeth, Ark.

Repentance was needed in the lives of those who lived under the Old Covenant as shown in Isa. 55:7. "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his evil thought and return unto the Lord our God for he will have mercy and abundantly pardon.

Again the need of repentance in their lives is set for thin Ezek. 18:30-31. "Therefore will I judge you, oh house of Israel, every man according to his ways, Repent and turn from all your transgressions so that iniquity will not be your ruin.

John the Baptist came preaching repentance. Mt. 3:2. Christ when he began his personal ministry preached repentance. Mt. 4: 17 Lk. 13:3 When Christ sent the 12 and 70 forth under the limited commission they were told to preach repentance. Mk. 6:12, Mt. 10:5 6. All of this preaching of repentance by the prophets, John, Christ, and the 12 and 70 was limited to Israel only. "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into the city, of the Samar-

itians enter ye not; but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Mt. 10:5-6

After Jesus died, was buried, and resurrected he gave the great commission which was to be executed under the New Covenant. According to Luke 24:46-47 repentance was to be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem.

On the day of pentecost when this commission begin to be executed by the apostles, Peter said to those who were pricked in their hearts and cried out and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren what shall we do?" "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for remission of Sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." When Paul stood on Mars Hill in the city of Athens and addressed that great audience he stated that repentance was required of all men everywhere. Act 17:30

Now let us consider the question what produces repentance? Paul writing in 2 Cor. 7:10 states that godly sorrow worketh repentance. Notice Paul did not say godly sorrow is repentance, as some teach; but worketh or leads to the act of repentance, so godly sorrow is the cause of repentance and not the act of repentance.

Jesus said that repentance should be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem. Lk. 24:46-47

Then let us consider the kind of preaching which brings godly sorrow that works repentance. Turn to Act 2 and at that time Peter preached the gospel for the first time in fact. He brought to bear upon those who heard that Christ died, was buried, res-

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NEWS

Mammoth Spring

Bro. Emmitt Smith, minister of Seventh and Muller St. Church of Christ and President of Crowley's Ridge Christian Academy will speak at Mammoth Spring church Wednesday evening at 7:30, Feb. 17. He will tell us about how and why they began the school. We enjoyed Bro. Smith's sermon in the lectureship very much and invite all to be with us on this night to hear him again.

The lectureship brought the largest attendance to Mammoth Spring church that we have ever had. This opportunity is taken to thank everyone who attended for helping make this meeting the wonderful success that it was. Record crowds upward toward 500 were in attendance and were well repaid for their efforts by the sermons delivered by these safe and able ministers of God's word.

Our newest Bro. in Christ is Bro. Sellers, aged 82, who was baptised on a stretcher at the church Feb 5. A Bryson Funeral Home ambulance brought him to the church house and returned him after the baptising. We rejoice together with him.

The men's training class has been visiting around with other local congregations during the past month. We have visited Salem, Thayer, and Hatfield. This is just an effort to increase fellowship on earth with the people with whom we hope to spend eternity. Give us an invitation to visit you, if you would like to have us.

WHICH BAPTISM?

Tom Griffith—Mammoth Spring
Which baptism is in effect to-

day? Holy Ghost baptism or water baptism. Paul said in Eph. 4:5 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism.' Reading now Matthew 28: 16-20. Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Men cannot administer Holy Spirit Baptism. It came from God. It will be noticed that the Apostles were to teach all nations and baptize those they taught. Then teach those baptized to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. The latest command was to teach and baptize. Therefore those taught and baptized were also to observe teaching and baptizing. As they were taught and baptized, so they were to teach and baptize others. Since man cannot administer Holy Spirit baptism it of necessity means water baptism.

Now read Acts 8:34-36. "And the eunuch answered Phillip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man. Then Phillip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to

be baptized? and Phillip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest: And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." Here is an example of teaching and baptizing. The Eunuch surely understood it was water baptism. Also Phillip, a man full of the Holy Ghost by the Laying on of the Apostles hands, but who himself was powerless to administer Holy Spirit baptism [read first portion of Acts 8], without a doubt understood it to be water baptism.

We have had some folk around lately who believe the proper name for God's people today is Jehovah's witnesses. The New Testament says "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" Acts 11:26.

A witness must be one who has seen something and can testify to it. The Apostles were witnesses and gave their testimony of the resurrected Christ. These folks today who claim to be Jehovah's witnesses have seen nothing that anyone else might not see, except perhaps the wresting of the scriptures into a damnable heresy that teaches man has no soul, that there is no hell, no immortality, no resurrection, and no kingdom of heaven, and no open door of salvation. They claim to be prophets but have not correctly prophesied any important event. They deny that the body of Jesus was raised from the dead in spite of the fact Jesus invited Thomas to thrust his hand into his side and be not faithless but believing. John 20:

WHY THERE IS DIVISION

Elmo Hall...Lake City, Ark.

Any person who has even a minimum knowledge of God's word knows that division in religion is anti-scripture and anti-Christ. The division that exists is deplorable and has caused many to turn to infidelity. Still, there are those who thank God for the multiplicity of churches so each can worship as he pleases. This, notwithstanding that the whole tenor of the Bible is that we are to worship God as he directs and not as our whims direct.

It is our purpose to examine some of the causes of this tragic condition.

I. An unscriptural loyalty to men.

This is perhaps the foremost cause. Even among the true church there are those who put loyalty to some man they like before peace and sometimes split the Lord's body in a particular locality. One of the many faults of the brethren at Corinth was their unscriptural attitude toward men to the extent that they called themselves after the man's name. I Cor. 1:12.

So, many denominations exist today because some man had a pleasing personality, or good looks, or pleasing voice, or all three and people, pleased with outward appearances, swallowed what he said just because he said it. We are not to accept or reject what a man says according as to how we fancy him, but how what he says harmonizes with the word of God.

II. The partial view of the scriptures.

This takes a part and makes it the whole of the truth. We

must remember that just a part of the truth will not save us. It takes all of it. One of the reasons that some take the partial view is the spirit of reaction. That is, they emphasize one aspect of the truth to combat a false teaching to the extent that they, themselves, form a creed on that aspect. To illustrate, when John Calvin started studying the Bible he saw that the Catholics were wrong in their doctrine of meritorious works. So he started emphasizing the doctrine of salvation by grace. However, Calvin and his followers emphasized that man is saved by grace to the extent that it became "saved by grace only" without any works at all. Then his teaching became false also. To counteract false Catholic teaching he leaned over the other way and became a false teacher himself. Certainly, we are saved by grace, but it is grace plus works of righteousness. (Eph. 2:7-10; James 2:24)

Our own brethren, too, can become guilty of the partial view, or the spirit of reaction. In order to counteract false teaching on the plan of salvation we sometimes emphasize the scriptural plan of salvation to the neglect of other things and make it the whole of Christianity. There is something to do after we are saved and the whole of Christianity is not embodied in the plan of salvation. Remember the word of Paul, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Acts 20:27.

III. Lack of love for the truth.

When the truth reveals the shortcomings of man, he often turns from truth to error because only error will justify his misdeeds; So a lack of love for the

truth has caused division, because man is going to play his harp, light his candles, call his preacher Reverend, though it tears the body of Christ asunder and sends his soul to hell.

To be Christlike we must follow the truth, though it requires us to sacrifice the love of mother and father, though it requires us to let go of ideas we have believed for many years, though it requires our physical life.

IV. The speculative spirit.

All down through the history of the Lord's church there have been those who speculate on obscure passages of scripture and then make their speculation a test of fellowship. It was the desire for hidden knowledge that was the downfall of man in the garden of Eden. For instance, the scripture says there will be a resurrection. There are many questions about that glorious occasion that will not be answered until it happens. The scripture does not tell us all we might want to know about heaven, but it tells us enough to make us desire to go there. So do not let your ideas about that place drive a wedge between you and your brethren.

Only when man is willing to lay down his loyalty to man, is ready to hear the whole counsel of God, develops a love for the truth, and stops binding opinions on others, then sits humbly at the feet of the Master and says "Speak Lord and I will hear. Command Lord and I will obey; will there ever be unity.

The Church of Christ believes the old Bible, in spite of false accusations. We seek justification by the law of Grace and not the law of Moses.

Need of Repentance- from page 2

unrected, and had ascended into heaven, had been crowned as Lord and Christ and added, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly this same Jesus whom ye have taken with wicked hand and crucified and slain has become both Lord and Christ. Act 2;36

What was the effect of this kind of preaching? It produced godly sorrow. "Now when they were pricked in their heart and cried out and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles men and brethren what shall we do?" Act 2;37 Had they repented at this point? no, for Peter said in the next verse "Repent and be baptized". Act 2;38

The next question that would challenge our attention is, what is repentance? The act of repentance is not godly sorrow for godly sorrow works repentance. Jesus shows in Mt 21:28 that repentance is a change of mind or will followed by reformation of life.

Repentance is something God grants, Act 11:18 Repentance is something God commands. Act 17:30 The fruits of repentance is a reformed life. Mt. 21:28

What must one do after repentance in order to be saved?

The alien sinner must confess his faith in Christ and be baptized shown as in Act 8:36 39 after Philip had preached Jesus unto the Eunuch, as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water and the Eunuch said see here is water what doth hinder me to be baptized and Philip said if thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest and he said I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He commanded the chariot to stand still and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch and he baptized him.

If one is an erring christian after repentance they must confess their sins and pray. Jas. 5;16; Jno. 1;9; Act 8;22

In conclusion let us consider the motive of repentance. First the fear of judgement. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man for every work and every secret thing shall be brought into judgement whether it be good or evil." Ecc. 12:13 14 Paul said, "It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgement" Second; the Love and goodness of God. 'The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.' Rom 2;4. In Rom. 5;8 "God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for the ungodly."

How many does God want to repent? "God is not slack concerning his promises as some men count slackness but is long suffering to usward not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3;9

k. (Little did they dream that some of them there, would eat of his body and drink of his blood, which was actually accomplished on the night of his betrayal, when he blessed the bread and the cup and told them to eat and drink of it (Matt. 26:26-28).

Most certainly they, as all Christians do today, ate of the loaf and drank of the fruit of the vine which was emblematical of his body and blood, and not his actual flesh and blood as some claim.

Paul in his instructions to the Church at Corinth 1 Cor. 12:24-26, said it was to be done in remembrance of Christ, and to show his death till he come, making it very plain in following verses, that when it was done in an unworthy manner, "Not discerning the Lord's body," was the cause of many sickly, and even sleeping church members)

And the record says "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him!

Then said Jesus to the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" then answered the Apostle who seemed

who had met him, at a predetermined spot in Galilee, "All power is given unto me in heaven, and in earth."

Then since it pleased him to whom All power was given, to set the Church into operation by, and through those disciples, chosen beforehand and prepared for this exceedingly important work, would he not have a perfect right to administer the terms or conditions of entrance thereinto? And especially since none of them are unreasonable, or too hard for any person to do, but are for the purpose of showing a humble and contrite heart, which is of great value in God's sight.

In concluding, I wish to briefly state his terms, recall to mind the title, "To whom shall we go?"

In Rom. 10:9 Paul declares men must confess with the mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in the "heart that God raised him from the dead, but these steps are contingent on hearing, as he further explains in the following questions Rom. 10:14 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And Peter in Acts 2:38 proclaimed to the Jews "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."

Friends, it is as easy as that, do you see anything difficult about it? Then why won't you do it at once, while you have the privilege and opportunity.

Become a Christian, a child of the heavenly King, an heir, a joint-heir with Christ! that heaven with all its grandeurs, may be your eternal abode.