

THE SECOND COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The book of Acts speaks a great deal of the work of the Holy Spirit. The book of acts is the acts of the Holy Spirit through the disciples. No reference to the Old Testament is as sharp and pointed as in the second chapter of Acts where Peter refers to the outpouring of the Spirit that occurred on the day of Pentecost.

In Acts 2, Peter quoted the Old Testament reference in Joel to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit: *But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit ...* Then Peter goes on to quote how the Lord would *show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour (columns) of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable (awesome) day of the Lord come.* Acts 2:16–20.

This was a fantastic prophecy. But it was not all fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

There were cloven tongues of fire upon them, but that was not a fulfillment of what Joel prophesied. I want to call your attention to a great truth (even the book of James refers to this): that the Lord will give the former and the latter rain in order that the precious fruit, of the earth can be brought to maturity. The husbandman of the earth will wait until that takes place (James 5:7). This indicates that even as Jesus Christ has two comings, the Holy Spirit has two comings. Jesus Christ came the first time and lived among men and blessed them; then He

returned to the Father and He sent the Holy Spirit, the advent of the Holy Spirit.

This prophecy in Acts reminds us of the prophecies of the Lord when He first came. In Luke 4, Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1, 2: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor ...* He continued reading up to ... *the day of vengeance of our God*, but He stopped before that phrase, closed the scroll, gave it back to the head of the synagogue and said, *This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.* Luke 4:18–21.

The prophecies in the Old Testament about our Lord coming were very similar to the prophecy in Acts 2 about the Holy Spirit; they often mingled together the two phases of His coming, and we can see in the wisdom of God why it was so.

The Old Testament prophecies about our Lord speak of some things that took place two thousand years ago and other things that will soon take place, all mixed together in one prophetic word. In a sense, though Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, yet He said, *Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.* Matthew 28:20.

So Jesus went away in one sense, and yet in another sense, His presence remains specially with every believer to the end of the age. The Holy Spirit came in a special sense on the day of Pentecost, and yet in a sense, the Holy Spirit has remained with every believer every day.

Even as Jesus will have another return, an advent (even though He is present with us, He is coming again), so also, although the Holy Spirit is present with us, we can expect a special coming of the Holy Spirit. A great unlimited outpouring upon all flesh, called the latter rain of the

Holy Spirit, which will prepare the precious fruit of the earth for the Lord to come and take it to Himself.

Why did the Holy Spirit come the first time? Jesus said, "It is to your advantage that I go away for if I go not away, the Holy Spirit will not come" (John 16:7). So we know that it was essential for Jesus to leave because the Holy Spirit can make the presence of Christ and the ministry of Christ more real to us than if Christ had remained on earth as He was. The ministry still would have been localized in one individual. Now it is diversified and universalized in a many member Christ, of which we are all partaking members through the agency of the Holy Spirit.

We understand that the Spirit's first coming opened up the Church age, the ministries and the presence of Christ to the church throughout all these centuries. Why will He come the second time?

Because we are at the end of one age and the beginning of another. The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former. We are about to see the greatest harvest ever seen but also the hour of judgment upon this whole earth and upon Satan.

Originally, Pentecost was a feast of firstfruits in which the priests took the grain, made two loaves and waved them before the Lord. The book of Romans talks about our having received the firstfruits of the Spirit. You must understand this principle of firstfruits in the Feast of Pentecost because it works two ways. God received on the day of Pentecost the thousands that believed. In a sense they were a firstfruits of the church to come forth, but they received from God the firstfruits of the Holy Spirit. We, too, as the book of Romans teaches us, have received the firstfruits of the Spirit. The feast of firstfruits is when we

feast upon the first taste that God brings of the endless story of provision, of ample supply, of change, of miracles, of the infusion of His own self in to our lives. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit brings the first fruits of it, *the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.* Ephesians 1:14.

We are entering into the first fruits of the manifestation of the sons of God. There will be a remnant of believers that will enter into sonship, like the 120 in the upperroom. You can call them the Joshua generation, the Joseph company, the Elijah or Elisha ministry, those who have a different spirit, the Caleb company, the Jacobs who have had their names changed, they will be the Enochs who walk with God in dual realms. They are the Noah's who have been building the ark. They are the friends of the bridegroom, the man-child who is caught up to God and his throne, and then the outpouring of the Spirit shall come forth.