

were distributors of these nine miraculous gifts, when they died and those on whom they had laid hands died also, the age of miracles closed. We walk by faith, hearing the word of God and believing the signs that have been written (John 20:30-31). We are not a wicked and adulterous generation that keeps on demanding signs (Matthew 12:38-39) after God has confirmed His word and closed vision and prophecy. Continued to February.

* This article is taken from a tract by Waldron: **THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Copies of it are free. Write to P. O. Box 123, Dunlap, TN 37327 and request a dozen, fifty, one hundred or more. No charge, but you may send a gift.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We have just reprinted an outstanding book (3,000 copies), which deals candidly with questions on the Holy Spirit that are troubling our beloved brotherhood. The book was written by the late Howard Winters, who for many years worked with local churches of Christ in East Tennessee and North Carolina. He also served as editor of the *Carolina Christian*. While serving in that capacity he wrote and published, *THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*.

The book’s introduction was written by Howard’s younger brother, Clayton. In it he tells of the author’s religious experiences before obeying the gospel, that embolden his zeal to understand the truth about the work of the Spirit:

“Howard Winters, cut his religious teeth on emotionalism mingled with superstition. I remember well how he was urged on in his first sermon efforts by the shouts of “Hallelujah” and “Amen” from his Pentecostal brethren. He was truly “carried away with the spirit,” of whatever sort it may have been.”

The book has 222 pages. You may have a copy or copies at no charge. Order a copy for your brother-in-law, a son or daughter. We do not sell the books and tracts, which we distribute. This we do as an outreach to edify and evangelize. Your gifts for this work would be greatly appreciated. Write: Waldron Mission Fund, P. O. Box 123, Dunlap, TN 37327.

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BULLETIN BRIEFS

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THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*

Jim E. Waldron

Note: The controversy over the question as to *whether or not the gift of the Holy Spirit means that He literally resides in the Christian’s body or that there is no gift of the Holy Spirit at all for God’s people today* continues to plague our brotherhood. In light of this division the following article is presented for your kind consideration. It is in two parts; the final portion will be given in *Bulletin Briefs* for February ‘09.

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Just ten days after His ascension back to heaven, Jesus, on Pentecost (A.D. 30), from the right hand of the Father’s throne, personally sent down the Holy Spirit on the twelve, as Peter affirmed that day, **“He (Jesus) poured out this which you now see and hear”** (Acts 2:33). This was not to make them His apostles, for He had done that already (Luke 6:13). It was in order for the Holy Spirit to teach them, **“all things”** of God; to bring to their **“remembrance all things,”** which Christ had said to them (John 14:26); to **“guide them into all truth”** (John 16:13); and to provide them **“power”** (Acts 1:8). Through which power, they were to do many **“signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit”** to confirm the word of God (Hebrews 2:3-4, cf. Mark 16:17-20). This was the baptism of the twelve in the Holy Spirit, which Christ had promised to them (Acts 1:4-5). Not all the 120 spoken of in Acts 1:15 were baptized in the Holy Spirit, but only the apostles, as the reading of Acts 1:26, 2:1, 2:14, 37, 42, 43 shows. When the apostles received the power from

on high they did not string together a babel of non-sense or spout a few Hebrew words in vain repetition as those who claim the power of Pentecost today. They spoke real tongues or languages of real people as those who heard that day affirmed, "we hear, each in our own language in which we were born" (Acts 2:8).

According to the inspired record, baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred only one other time and that was about ten years later on the first Gentile converts in the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48). It was not to make them apostles, nor did they receive this special gift in order to guide them into all truth. That, as noted, had been promised to the apostles; but these Gentiles did have in a miraculous manner **"the gift of the Holy Spirit ... poured out on (them) also"** (Acts 10:45), directly from the hand of Christ Jesus. This was done in order to prove to the Jews that the Gentiles, as well as they, were to have the gospel.

Later the believing Jews at Jerusalem called upon Peter to give an account of his conduct in Caesarea. As the record shows (Acts 11:1-18) he gave an orderly and detailed description of the events, which had led up to his decision to command baptism in water for the Gentiles at Cornelius' house (See Acts 10:47-48). Not only this, but Peter did not indicate in any way that such a miraculous gift, of the Holy Spirit directly from Jesus, was a common occurrence. In fact, he did the opposite for he had to go all the way back to Pentecost, approximately ten years before, to find a like example. He said, **"the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning"** (Acts 11:15). He didn't say, as on us "last night," "last week," "last month" or "last year" as many claim today.

On the day of Pentecost there had been two baptisms: (1) Holy Spirit baptism on the twelve (Acts 2:1-8), and (2) the baptism of about 3000 (2:38-41) in water. This latter baptism was according to the authority of Christ, as given in the great commission, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 8:36-38). There were two baptisms at Cornelius' house according to Acts 10:47: Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism. Yet, twenty years after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Caesarea, around A.D. 60, Paul affirmed by the Spirit Himself that there was **"one Lord, one faith, one baptism"** (Ephesians 4:5). Holy Spirit baptism had ceased to be given by that date and it does not occur today. There is now one baptism (that commanded in the great commission), not two.

THE HOLY SPIRIT BY THE APOSTLES' HANDS

The church at its beginning had only the Old Testament scriptures (cf. Acts 17:11). When a congregation was begun it had no written account of Christ's life, the Acts or any of the twenty-one letters, which are in our New Testament. Therefore, Jesus at the beginning, in a miraculous way, set certain positions among the disciples to provide for the young churches until they could have the faith and the knowledge of Him in unified form. As it is written, **"He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors*, and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive"** (Ephesians 4:11-14).

Later some of these, such as evangelists (2 Timothy 4:1-5), elders (pastors) (I Titus 1:5-9), and teachers (2 Timothy 2:2) were set in the churches by means of the word. Yet, as noted, at the first, such positions in the early church were done in a miraculous manner by the Lord, until the knowledge of Jesus, and the faith in unified form, could be given. The Savior also arranged for the Holy Spirit to distribute certain miraculous gifts among the disciples, as it is written, **"there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit"** (I Corinthians 12:4).

There were nine of these gifts: (1) wisdom, (2) knowledge, (3) faith, (4) healings, (5) miracles, (6) prophecy, (7) discerning of Spirits, (8) various kinds of tongues or languages, and (9) the interpretation of such tongues (I Corinthians 12:7-10). These were distributed among the disciples in the first century by the Holy Spirit, not directly, but through the apostles, for the record says, **"Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given..."** (Acts 8:18). Simon had seen Philip, the evangelist, perform miracles, wonders and signs (Acts 8:5-8); but he had not seen him impart what Peter called, "the gift of God" (Acts 8:20), which produced such miraculous powers among the first century Christians. Philip was able to perform miracles himself because the apostles had earlier laid their hands on him (Acts 6:5-6); but he could not pass that power to others as the apostles

*Also called elders or overseers (Acts 20:17, 28).

did.

The statement by Luke, at the time of the apostles' arrival among the Samaritan disciples concerning their receipt of the Holy Spirit: **"For as yet He had fallen on none of them"** (Acts 8:16), shows they had received no miraculous manifestation of the Spirit prior to the apostles' arrival. We must note, Philip and the other six brothers chosen with him to serve widow's tables in Jerusalem were men filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3,5) before the apostles laid hands on them, but it was not a miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit. The miraculous manifestation of the Spirit came on the seven after the apostles had laid their hands on them (Acts 6:6-8, cf. I Corinthians 12:7).

The sending of two apostles, Peter and John, to impart such spiritual gifts among the disciples at Samaria after Philip had converted them, illustrates the apostolic practice of providing rapid leadership for the new congregations. Paul's inquiry about certain disciples receiving the Holy Spirit at Ephesus, their "re"-baptism for the right purpose, and his subsequent imparting of the Holy Spirit to them (Acts 19:1-6), confirms this practice of the apostles among the first century churches. These were temporary gifts until the perfect gift: God's completed revelation to man, could be given, that is, the unified form "of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God" (See again Eph. 4:11-14).

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth about A.D.57 speaking of this complete or perfect gift: **"whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which* is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away"** (I Corinthians 13:8-10). Daniel, in speaking of the seventy weeks determined on the Jews, said one thing the Messiah (Jesus) would do, was, "to seal up vision and prophecy" (Daniel 9:24). This He did with the death of John (c. A. D. 98) and those upon whom the apostles had laid hands. Zechariah had also foretold that God would "cause the prophets and the unclean spirits to depart from the land" (Zachariah 13:2). This took place with the close of the apostolic age. Today there are no prophets of God (See Zachariah 13:3). The masses don't have to depend on a part of God's word in this man and a part in that. Today all men may have God's complete (perfect) revelation, the Holy Bible. Since, the apostles

*Note: The promise concerned, **"that which"** was to come not **"He who"**.