

THE “SOUND FROM HEAVEN”

“...suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind...” Acts 2:2

A “new wave” of carnality is crashing upon the shores of the nations. Strangely, it is coming in the guise of “spirituality” to deceive the masses of people who believe and trust in those who perpetrate the error. I speak of a “new method” which is being taught to receive “the baptism with the Holy Ghost.” This is a method that seems to have swept into the ministries across America before I was aware of it. It is the idea that a “believer” can receive the Holy Spirit of God simply by repeating the sounds and/or words they hear inside. This is not an issue I can deal with gracefully. If it would cost me everything, I must speak out. We saw the horrible end result of the “charismatic revival” of the past which taught the people they could “learn how” to “speak in tongues.” Reflecting off of the error of “repeating words” given to them by a minister, the new teaching is that God will “give you words to repeat.” We are told these “words,” which a person might hear in their “heart,” are the “sound from heaven” which came as a “rushing, mighty wind” on the Day of Pentecost.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost...” Matthew 3:11

A minister, man or woman, can baptize you with water, but only Jesus, the Christ of eternity, can baptize you with the Holy Ghost. A common error is to believe we can “receive the Spirit by faith,” exactly as we “received salvation by faith.” This is not true. Only those things which were finished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can be “received by faith.” These include justification and sanctification, which are both works of the cross and blood of Jesus Christ. These we receive immediately “by grace, through faith” Ephesians 2:8. The ministry to “baptize with the Holy Ghost” belongs to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who sits at the right hand of the Father, and it is not a “finished work” to be received “by faith.” To “repeat words” and believe you have received the Holy Spirit is as dangerous as “eating rat poison,” and believing it is only “powdered sugar.” Those who do this become locked into a carnality from which few ever escape.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” Acts 2:4

The great error which is being perpetuated on the people is made through twisting the meaning of the word “utterance.” Notice it was “the Spirit” who “gave them utterance.” I heard a famous faith teacher of the last generation say the word “utterance” means “the desire to speak.” He said if you have the “desire” to “speak in tongues” you can do it. Just “practice” until you “develop your language.” More recently another prominent minister said the “utterance” the Spirit gives is in the form of “words” which you hear inside and repeat in faith. Both of these are far from the truth.

The definition of “utterance” as given by “Strong’s Greek Concordance” is “to enunciate plainly.” To “enunciate” means “to pronounce,

articulate,” and to “articulate” means “to produce or make speech sounds” (American Heritage Dictionary). It is the Holy Spirit of God Almighty who “gives utterance” when He comes into a purified vessel Acts 15:8-9. He “enunciates plainly;” He “pronounces and articulates;” it is He who “produces and makes speech sounds.” He uses our breath, our vocal cords, our mouth, our lips, and our tongue, but it is “He” who forms the words we speak. The one who is baptized with the Holy Ghost is most often so overwhelmed with the experience, they often do not realize they are speaking in other languages. No one can be filled with the Spirit of God Almighty and not be broken, shaken, and overwhelmed with love and joy.

A businessman recently told my son, “I went to a revival meeting and received the Holy Ghost, but there wasn’t much to it.” Keith ignored the

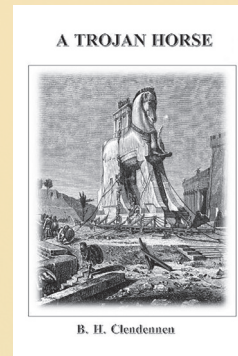
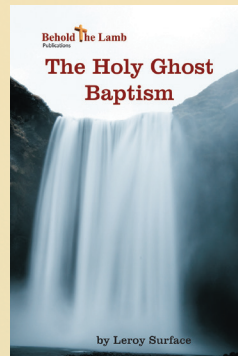
last comment and began telling him about the wonderful works of the Spirit he had experienced firsthand. After a few minutes the man said to Keith, “I didn’t receive the Holy Ghost, did I?” This man was deceived by a minister who wanted nothing more than what the apostle Paul called “a fair show in the flesh” Galatians 6:12.

“And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith” Acts 15:8-9
Salvation is for sinners, the ungodly, and for the enemies of God who will hear and believe the gospel. Thus salvation is “by grace, through faith” Ephesians 2:8. The Baptism with the Holy Ghost, however, is only for those whose hearts have been purified by the blood of Jesus. God, who “knows the hearts,” bore witness of

Cornelius that his “heart” had been “purified by faith,” and gave Him the Holy Ghost exactly as he did the hundred and twenty disciples on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit of God did not come into Cornelius to “help him overcome sin;” instead, the Holy Ghost “fell” on him because the blood of Jesus Christ had “washed his sin away.” He was a “... vessel of honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use...” and now, being full of the Holy Ghost, he was “...prepared unto every good work” II Timothy 2:21. We should understand, Cornelius was a lost man when Peter came into his house, but he received “full salvation (washed, sanctified, justified I Corinthians 6:11)” in the moment he heard and believed, and “while Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word” Acts 10:44.

Another trap for the people of God is the continual urging by others to “pray in your prayer language.” If you have received the baptism which Jesus gives, you cannot speak in tongues at your will. Only when the Spirit of God comes upon you and gives utterance through you can you speak or pray in tongues. If you follow those who urge you to speak at your will without the Spirit of God upon you, you will end up with a “prayer language,” but without the presence of God. Do not seek to pray in tongues! Instead, worship God and rejoice in Jesus until the Spirit of God comes upon you to the extent you can no longer speak in your native language. At this point, you will be edified by the free flow of the Spirit of God through your entire being.

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