



Normal Christian Life

By Watchman Nee

The experience of the Pentecost was the outpouring of the Spirit spoken of by Joel.

Peter spoke under the control of the Holy Spirit. The book of the Acts was written by the Spirit's inspiration, and not one word was spoken at random. What you see and hear fulfills what was spoken by the prophet Joel. What he was saying was, This is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel. (Acts 2:16). It was not a case of fulfillment, but of an experience of the same order.

When it is a case of fulfillment, each experience is reduplicated, and prophecy is prophecy, dreams are dreams, and vision are visions. But when Peter says "This is that," it is not a question of the one being a replica of the other, but of the one belonging to the same category as the other. This amounts to the same thing as that: what is being emphasized by the Holy Spirit through Peter is the diversity of the experience. The outward evidences may be many and varied, and we have to admit that occasionally they are strange; but the Spirit is one, and he is Lord. (I Cor. 12:4-6).

The Spirit Indwelling

The second aspect of the gift of the Holy Spirit, which, as we shall see in our next chapter, is more particularly the subject of Romans 8. It is that which we have spoken of as the Spirit indwelling." . . .if so be that the Spirit of God

dwelleth in you”: “Fi the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you. . . .” (Rom. 8:9,11).

As with the Spirit outpoured, so with the Spirit indwelling, if we are to know in experience that which is ours in fact, our first need is of divine revelation. When we see Christ as Lord objectively—that is, exalted to the throne in heaven—then we shall experience the power of the Spirit upon us. When we see Christ as Lord subjectively—that is, as effective Ruler within our lives—then we shall know the power of the Spirit within us.

We need the eyes of our understanding opened to know that God Himself, through the Holy Spirit, has taken up His abode in our hearts. In the person of the Spirit, God is present, and Christ is no less truly present too. Thus, if the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, we have the Father and the Son abiding in us. That is no mere theory or doctrine, but a blessed reality. We may perhaps have realized that the Spirit is actually within our hearts, but have we realized that He is a Person? Have we understood that to have the Spirit with us is to have the living God within?

To many Christians the Holy Spirit is quite unreal. They regard Him as a mere influence—an influence for good, no doubt, but just an influence for all that. In their thinking, conscience and the Spirit are more or less identified as some “thing” within them, that brings them to book when they are bad and tries to show them how to be good. The trouble with the Corinthian Christians was not that they lacked the in-dwelling Spirit, but that they lacked the knowledge of His presence. They failed to realize the greatness of the One who had come to make His abode in their hearts; so Paul wrote to them, “Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” Yes, that was the remedy for their inspirituality—just to know who He really was who dwelt within.

The Treasure in the Vessel

“The Spirit who dwells within me is no mere influence, but a living Person; He is very God. The infinite God is within my heart!” The Spirit of God within me is a Person! I am only an earthen vessel, but in that earthen vessel I carry a

treasure of unspeakable worth, even the Lord of glory. All the worry and fret of God's children would end if their eyes were opened to see the greatness of the treasure hid in their hearts. There are resources enough in your own heart to meet the demand of every circumstance in which you will ever find yourself? Do you know there is power enough there to move the city in which you live? Do you know there is power enough to shake the universe? Let me tell you once more –I say it with the utmost reverence: You who have been born again of the Spirit of God—you carry God in your heart.

The Absolute Lordship of Christ

“Know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which