

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Elizabeth V. Baker

BELOVED friends, if your earthly father left you an inheritance, you could not take possession of it till you went through a legal process. The executor has to administer upon the estate. The Holy Spirit is the Executor of the Godhead. He puts you in possession. In Acts 1:8 we read: "After that the Holy Spirit is come ye shall receive power." We have all read, hungered, and longed. We feel our necessities - and temptations, and we are so weak. The service is not equal to the need of power. You have asked for a baptism of the, Holy Ghost. You said it right, but in your heart you did not emphasize it. You said, Make me mighty, so I shall be equal to anything." You did not get it, did you? And you prayed harder, and people said, when you asked them how you must do, "When you get it, you'll know it. "Oh, I know all about it and the terrible struggle to see and take this blessing.

I remember the night I went through all this. I said I would not leave off praying till I got it. So I prayed all night. I wanted to get happy, and I was not. So I knelt and waited, but not a thing happened. I left that room and went about my business. Then the Lord showed me it was all done. He was more willing to give than I was to receive. It came to me with marvelous distinctness that I had not distinguished between the Person of the Holy Ghost and His manifestation. I must receive Him and let Him do as He chose in my heart. So I said, "I do receive Him, even if I never have a happy moment. I'll never doubt that He is mine."

Dear friends nothing happened! For a day or so I was aware of no serious change. I stood in darkness, but I dared to believe my God. I stepped into the invisible, just as if I stepped off this platform. Then somehow I became conscious of the blessed Lord in my heart-a sense that whatever God the Father asked I could give in the person of God the Son. And if I wanted anything I had it all in Him. It was not a sense of power or of glory. Only He had come to dwell in my heart.

Why is it so hard to believe God? In coming I tried to feel that this world is only a shadow, and the inner life the only reality. God is going to lead you straight down into the dark. It is not all going on beautifully. You must be adjusted to the life of Christ, and you must believe. He will give you all you need for that adjustment. When you get a postal order, you get a receipt before you receive a dollar. Isn't it as easy to trust God as the United States Government? Can't you write under God's promise, "Received the above," and sign your name? And don't wait for conscious emotion or manifestation. Separate between what He is going to do or give you, and Himself. If you were on the eve of bankruptcy, and a friend came saying, "I will assume all liabilities. Just leave all to me and I'll settle it." You would be so relieved though the business was in as bad a state as ever. One who had the means had undertaken and you were

free. Yes, the happiness and peace which follow the baptisms of the Spirit are only incidentals. We must be willing to wait for them.

The human body of Jesus was for the purpose of ministering to the human family. If He had remained on earth, He would always have been limited. But though He has a body still it is infinitely multiplied. If you are willing to become a member of His body, you will have all the power you want. He needs your hands, your feet, your eyes, your heart-each to do a work for Him. The world is hungry and sorrowful. You must let Jesus speak through and minister through you. That is what the baptism of the Holy Ghost means. Oh beloved, the divine life in us is so glorious! It is almighty in trifles. It can do little things as well as great things. And He bids you call Him Ishi, "Husband," because He can do for us all the kind and tender and helpful things a husband does. Why, He has attended to railroad tickets for me through His servants, and done countless small acts that are sweeter than even His great blessings.

Some people are satisfied with a little bit of grace, and to be able barely to get through. He wants you to take all He has for you. After He does everything He asks, "Lacked ye anything?" When He asked me this, after providing for my comforts in a marvelous way on a journey, it just broke heart. He has used several members of His body for me, thus testifying that He accepted me. Yea the Lord has need of me and of you, and of us all. He couldn't spare one member. Dear Lord I do want so to be yielded to Thee that I will be ready for any service. Are you willing, as a member His body, to do anything He bids you-even drudgery? Oh! That blessedness of being of some service to Jesus! Baptized into Christ for the least service is sweet. I am coining more and more to see that I must be empty, clean, and on hand. When we are not needed, and are set aside, it is just the same. Don't be anxious. Just wait till He has need of you, then be ready.

Sometimes the body of Jesus is paralyzed. The hands and feet are crippled and cannot be used. May God save us from spiritual paralysis! Allow the Lord to put you in order, beloved, and keep you in order, and use you for His own blessed Name's sake.