

We Pray for the Latter Rain, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! What is it coming to do, and are we ready for the real purpose of it?

It is to be regretted that so little attention is paid to this important subject; that so little is known in general, concerning the promises, the operations, and the gifts of the spirit of God.

There is one office of the Spirit which is not only ignored, but denied by many at the present time. It is that of *Reprover*. Jesus said:--

"And when he is come he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8.

They who deny the exercise of this office to the Spirit say that the promise of the direct presence of the Spirit is only to the church, as a Comforter; that they only who are members of the church can receive the influence of the Spirit in any manner; and that they who receive it do so, *not as an evidence* of that membership, but *because* of that membership. The world is reprov'd, they say, *only by the word* which the Spirit has indited; and the threatenings of the word are the only method of reproof, The Spirit itself not being present at all.

But this does not accord with the words of the Saviour, that the Spirit comes into the world to reprove the world. It plainly appears that the Spirit of God was striving with man in the days of Noah. Gen. 6:3. Stephen accused the Jews of always resisting it. Acts. 7:51. And if it is allowable to assume that the Spirit strives with and reprov's men *only* by means of the threatenings and reproofs of the word, we may with equal propriety assume that it comforts the saints *only* by the promises of the word. ***And then we have the Spirit banished entirely, as far as actual presence is concerned, and the promise of the Saviour is destroyed. We claim, and we think with good reason, that to deny its presence in comforting the saints is doing no greater violence to the Scriptures than to deny its presence in reprov'ing sinners.*** And if there be no real presence of the Spirit in these works we may in vain ask the Father to give us the Spirit, notwithstanding the Saviour's instructions in Luke 11:9-13. Nor can it then be true, as promised in our texts, John 14:16, that the Spirit will *abide with us* forever, no, nor even visit us at all.

We ought to consider ourselves responsible for every conclusion which may logically be drawn from our position. Therefore men ought to fear greatly when they take such a position as that which we now call in question, because it really removes the Spirit from the work of the gospel, as a Comforter as well as a reprover. We fear that such positions are taken because men are too easily satisfied with a nominal religion, destitute of the Spirit's power. {The Spirit Of God Its Offices and Manifestations. J.H. Waggoner. 1877. 13.3-15.2}

It was just before this that Jesus had a second time performed the miracle of healing a man possessed, blind and dumb, and the Pharisees had reiterated the charge, "He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils." Matt. 9:34. **Christ told them plainly that in attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan, they were cutting themselves off from the fountain of blessing.** Those who had spoken against Jesus Himself, not discerning His divine character, might receive forgiveness; for through the Holy Spirit they might be brought to see their error and repent. Whatever the sin, if the soul repents and believes, the guilt is washed away in the blood of Christ; but ***he who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him.*** It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart;

when men willfully reject the Spirit, and declare It to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. When the Spirit is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul. {DA 321.3}

Brother P, you ask if you have committed the sin which has no forgiveness in this life or in the life to come. I answer: I do not see the slightest evidence that this is the case. *What constitutes the sin against the Holy Ghost? It is willfully attributing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit.* For example, suppose that one is a witness of the special work of the Spirit of God. He has convincing *evidence* that *the work is in harmony with the Scriptures*, and the Spirit witnesses with his spirit that it is of God. Afterward, however, he falls under temptation; pride, self-sufficiency, or some other evil trait, controls him; and rejecting all the evidence of its divine character, he declares that that which he had before acknowledged to be the power of the Holy Spirit was the power of Satan. It is through the medium of His Spirit that God works upon the human heart; and when men willfully reject the Spirit and declare it to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. By denying the evidence which God has been pleased to give them, they shut out the light which had been shining in their hearts, and as the result they are left in darkness. Thus the words of Christ are verified: "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" For a time, persons who have committed this sin *may appear to be* children of God; but *when circumstances arise to develop character* and show what manner of spirit they are of, it will be found that they are on the enemy's ground, standing under his black banner. {5T 634.1}

Note:--circumstances arise to show who has committed *unpardonable sin*. religious profession continued by persons having committed *unpardonable sin*.

Questions to answer:--1). How do we know who really has authority? 2). What do they do? 3). Who doesn't have biblical or Divine authority? Will they resort to the state to give them this?

This is the danger to which the church is now exposed--that the inventions of finite men shall *mark out the precise way for the Holy Spirit to come*. Though they would not care to acknowledge it, some have already done this. And because the Spirit is to come, *not to praise men or to build up their erroneous theories, but to reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment, many turn away from it*. They are not willing to be deprived of the garments of their own self-righteousness. They are not willing to exchange their own righteousness, which is unrighteousness, for the righteousness of Christ, *which is pure, unadulterated truth*. The Holy Spirit flatters no man, neither does it work according to the devising of any man. Finite, sinful men are not to work the Holy Spirit. When it (The Holy Spirit) shall come as a reprover, *through any human agent whom God shall choose, it is man's place to hear and obey its voice*. {TM 64.3}

There is danger now of men's losing sight of the important truths applicable for this period of time (probationary time), and *seeking for those things that are new and strange and entrancing*. *Many, if reproved by the Spirit of God through His appointed agencies, refuse to receive correction, and a root of bitterness is planted in their hearts against the Lord's servants who carry heavy, disagreeable burdens*. There are men who teach the truth, but who are not perfecting their ways before God, who are trying to *conceal* their defections and

encourage an estrangement from God. They have not the moral courage to do the things that it is for their special benefit to do. They see *no necessity for reform*, and so they reject the *words* of the Lord and *hate him who reproveth at the gate*. {TM 408.1}

This very refusal to heed the admonitions which the Lord sends gives Satan every advantage *to make of them the bitterest enemies of those who have told them the truth*. They become falsifiers of *those who have borne to them the message from the Lord*. {TM 408.2}

The man who rejects the *word* of the Lord, who endeavors to establish his own way and will, *tears to pieces the messenger and message which God sends in order to discover to him his sin*. His own inclinations have influenced his conduct, and he has built himself up in a wrong way. The divine rule is, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." But he would not do this. As a man thinketh, so is he. From within, out of the heart, proceed evil thoughts inspired by Satan. He begins to *quibble at technicalities* and *manners*. The spirit of Satan links him up with the enemy to bear a word of criticism on less important themes. The truth becomes of less and still less value to him. He becomes an accuser of his brethren, etc., and changes leaders. The outside world has a greater weight with him than has the flood of light that God has poured in upon the world in messages that he has given, and which he once rejoiced in. {TM 408.3}

Oh, how many things have developed since he became so full of hatred against God *because his dangers and wrongs were brought before him!* He has allowed wicked thoughts to strengthen and prevail because, day by day, he has not eaten of the flesh and drunk of the blood of the Son of God, because he has not become a partaker of the divine nature. The things which come from within defile the man. How corrupt then must be the source from which these evils have taken their rise! {TM 409.1}

Enoch in his day sounded the proclamation of the coming of Christ and the execution of judgment upon the unrighteous; and we now see the fulfillment of Enoch's prophecy concerning the great wickedness that should abound. But *these who have the light are the very ones commissioned of God to make constantly aggressive warfare*. As the inquiry shall be made, "Watchman, what of the night?" the faithful message is to be heard in response, "The morning cometh, and also the night." {TM 230.3}

What work are we individually doing for the Master? Who are unfolding the *truth* to those who are in the darkness of error? Who are holding forth the *words* of life? *The enemies of Christ are many, who, while they claim to be righteous, have not the righteousness of Christ*. They disguise themselves as angels of light, but they are ministers of sin. This fact should be sufficient to stir every soul to action. Who are faithful stewards of the grace of Christ? Who are making wise division of labor, calling into active service every soul *that has an intelligent knowledge of the truth*, and giving to all a work to do? {TM 236.2}

Satan has laid every measure possible that nothing shall come among us as a people to reprove and rebuke us, and exhort us to put away our errors. But there is a people who will bear the ark of God. Some will go out from among us who will bear the ark no longer. But these cannot make walls to obstruct the truth; for it will go onward and upward to the end. In the past God has raised up men, and He still has men of opportunity waiting, prepared to do His bidding--

men who will go through restrictions which are only as walls daubed with untempered mortar. When God puts His Spirit upon men, they will work. They will proclaim the *word* of the Lord; they will lift up their voice like a trumpet. The truth will not be diminished or lose its power in their hands. They will show the people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins. {TM 411.1}

Notice it was *after the disciples had come into perfect unity*, when they were no longer striving for the highest place, that *the Spirit had been poured out*. They were of one accord. All differences had been put away. And the testimony borne of them after the Spirit had been given is the same. Mark the word: "The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul." The Spirit of Him who died that sinners might live, animated the entire congregation of believers". {Ev. 698.3}