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MILTON

The Sunday School Lesson

JANUARY 8, 1950

POWER FOR THE CHURCH'S TASK

Golden Text.—"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy spirit." Ac. 2:38.

Lesson Text.—Ac. 2:1-4, 14-17, 37-41.

Exposition.—The Disciples Filled with the Holy Spirit, 1-4.

The disciples had been bidden not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, the baptism with the Holy Spirit (ch. 1: 4, 5). They had faithfully obeyed this command. After the ascension of Jesus they had returned at once to Jerusalem (1-12) to wait God's time and God's blessing. Though "they continued steadfastly" in prayer (1: 14) the entire time was not spent in prayer (1:15-26; Luke 24:53). There was absolute unity in their prayer. It was with one accord. Their minds were all united in one thing, "the promise of the Father," the baptism with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13; Ac. 4:31; 8:15-17). They did not regard the positive promise of Christ (1:5) as relieving them from the necessity of prayer, but as an incentive to and a foundation for prayer. The women were there as well as the men (1:14). Ten days passed without an answer. The day of pentecost, the day of "first fruits," the gathering of the church (Lev. 23:13-21) came at last.

There was not only "wind" from heaven, but fire as well (Matt. 3:11; Isa. 4: 4; Jre. 23: 29). The fire was under the forms of tongues, the new power was to manifest itself in a tongue of fire granted to them. (v. 4). The tongues parted asunder or portioned themselves out to "each one of them." They rested upon the women as well as on the men (vs. 17, 18). The blessing was not to the church as a body but to "each one of them" as individuals. This is a fulfillment of ch. 1:5. So the expressions "filled with the Spirit" and "baptized with the Spirit" are practically synonymous. The expression used here brings out the thought that the Holy Spirit takes complete possession of the faculties. The immediate result was that they began to speak with other tongues (10:46; 19:6). The baptism with the Spirit did not always manifest itself in this particular gift but always in new power for Christ (1 Cor. 12:6-10, 30; Ac. 4:31; 9:17-22).

11. The Meaning of Pentecost, 14-17. Some thought that the disciples were drunk. That some sought to attribute the state of the disciples to intoxication is not strange. The effect of both wine and the Spirit is to stimulate. But the one stimulates unnaturally, the other supernaturally. The stimulation in the one case is followed by wretched reaction; but in the other one is lifted permanently to a more exalted state of joy and blessing, vision and power (Eph. 5:18 ff.). It was but a fulfillment of one of the great O. T. prophecies (Joel 2: 28, 29).

111. "What Shall We Do?" 37-41. These convicted Jews cried out to know what they were to do. Peter's answer was very plain, and perhaps nothing in the Bible makes the way of salvation and blessing plainer. (1) "Repent," i.e., change their minds about Jesus. They were to change from that attitude of mind that crucified Jesus to that which accepted Him as "Lord and Christ." This, of course, involves repentance of sin, i.e., renouncing all sin. And it involves the absolute

surrender of our wills to Jesus as our Lord.

(2) "Be baptized." There was to be outward water baptism. But there must be more than the mere outward symbol—there was to be the great inward fact for which the outward symbol stood, the renunciation of sin, faith in Christ and the putting on of Jesus Christ (cf. Gal. 3:26, 27; Rom: 6:3, 4). Being "baptized in the name of Jesus Christ" means more than having some water sprinkled upon you (or being immersed in some water) while a certain baptismal formula is repeated. It means confession and renunciation of sin, faith in Christ's death and resurrection in our behalf, identification with Christ in His death and in His resurrection. When there is real repentance and real baptism there will be remission of sin and there will be reception of "the gift of the Holy Ghost" (v. 38).

The gift of the Holy Ghost is the blood-bought birthright of every believer in Jesus Christ. If one does not have the gift of the Holy Spirit experimentally, it is either because he does not claim his birthright by simple prayer and faith (Ac. 4: 31; 8: 15, 16), or else because he has not really made Jesus Lord and Christ by the absolute surrender of the will to Him.

"The Promise", i.e., as the language used and the content unmistakably demonstrate (cf. ch. 1: 4, 5; 2: 38, 39), the promise of the baptism with the gift of the Holy Spirit was for them as well as for the apostles, and not only for them (i. e. Jewish believers of the apostles' day), but for their children (i. e., Jewish believers of generations to come); and not only for them, but for "all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him" (i. e. for Gentile believers of every coming century of the world's history). In other words, by God's own most explicit statement, the baptism with the Holy Spirit is for every child of God.

In A Country Lane

By Lillian Collier Gray



The New Year is with us! We have reached the half-century point of the twentieth century. It has an intriguing sound, that "half century" — as if it should be a very important time, as indeed it is. It is a full time of promise, if we do the right things. And full of direful threat if we do the wrong things. It isn't a time for dilly-dallying or too much doubtful experimenting. We need to know why we need to do certain things, and we need to do them in this new year of 1950.

It is too late to wish our readers a merry Christmas, but not too late to extend our very best wishes for a happy New Year. Several readers have asked me, "Where have you been the last two weeks—taking a holiday?" To those who have not asked but are wondering, I hasten to explain that I have been right here, and not taking a holiday. But my apparent neglect was due to one of those reasons that come under the category of "circumstances beyond my control". It was nice being missed, however, and I found out a lot of people really read this column. To all who do—may the year of 1950 be one of rich achievement and much happiness for you.

There are so many things one might say about this standing on the threshold of another three hundred and sixty-five days. It is always a time for resolutions. Some people no longer make them. But, we think, like the Craigs of Briarwood Farm, that it is better to make some even if they get broken later, for it is better to have good intentions than to have none at all. So we continue to make them here at Deep Acres. They may get broken or at least badly bent, but at least we intend to try. Right here might be a good place to inform our readers we are starting out the New Year using the editorial "we" henceforth in "our" column. Having spent a year and a half switching back and forth from "I" to "we," we now have decided we like "we" better. We don't know what our readers think.

Pondering about the New Year, we have come to the conclusion that a friend of ours made quite a profound statement the other day when she said, "I think there never has been a time in the world's history when there was such need for people of ability who can persuade groups to work together. The peace of the world depends upon that kind of effort." Isn't it the truth? We have so very many groups of all kinds and interests, all working for their own particular goals, but often working against

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Timely Travel Tips!



Next time you feel the urge to go places, see your local bus agent. He can tell you all about fares, stop-over arrangements, time tables and other details that will help you to enjoy your trip. He is a member of your community and will be glad to serve you.

FARES ARE LOW

Chicago	\$21.25
Los Angeles	84.35
Montreal	14.85
Quebec	22.50

(Subject to Change) ROUND TRIP

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BURLINGTON

Another record year for the issuing of building permits will again be reached this year, William Metcalfe, Building Inspector, stated to The Gazette on Tuesday evening. Last year's total was \$940,000 half as much again as the previous year, but this year will even exceed that figure, being approximately \$980,000.

On Friday evening last, Clifford Russell, a Burlington truck driver, was injured in a truck accident, and taken to the hospital at Brantford with serious head injuries. Rodger Vanderbuste, driver of another truck escaped with facial lacerations.

Boys and girls of the town, now enjoying their Christmas holidays, are saddened because of the lack of skating and no snow to sleigh-ride. Once again the necessity of the arena for Burlington is brought home. The Lions Club commenced their open air rink early in December at the park, and while there was a couple of days skating, the old weatherman does the same trick each year—turns mild periodically, with the result—no skating.

So far as the local police were concerned, Chief Smith reports that it was the quietest holiday season week-end ever recorded here for a Christmas. Not a single accident was reported to the police, nor were there any arrests for being drunk or disorderly.—Gazette.

OAKVILLE

Intense dissatisfaction with the town's payment of its promised contribution to the hospital building fund was expressed by members of the Board of Governors of Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital at last Thursday evening's meeting. The amount of cheque received from the town proceeds of the sale of \$100,000 debentures, was \$96,371.64. The difference was accounted for by the discount, cost of printing and verifying the debentures and by the deduction of \$1,057.52, the amount of taxes due on the hospital building site. "The town guaranteed us the full amount," said Chairman J. M. Dunwoody.

Youngsters enjoying the seasonal holiday from school class-rooms can participate in a supervised recreational program taking place in Victoria Hall each week. This is still another project of the Oakville Recreation Commission, and provides fun that is continuous and varied.—Journal.

"LAVENDER BLUE" — Scottish

A two-acre field of lavender in Banchory, Aberdeenshire is the beginning of a growing industry for Scotland. There is the sandy Deeside soil, Mr. A. R. Inkster is turning out perfume from his factory and already building up overseas markets. Mr. Inkster got the idea of growing lavender for perfume while working as a chemist in Canton in China before the war. The local soil is especially suited to the growing of lavender, and the long summer days in the North of Scotland benefit the flower, at an important time in the cultivation of the plant.

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"Bob, do you know what Day this is?"



"This," said Betty to a momentarily flustered Bob, "is the beginning of a new year with a lot of wonderful possibilities for us."

"The Bank Manager and I were chatting about the new year and he told me what the Bank President had said in his speech about our future."

"And, you know Bob, I never realized before what great possibilities there are for you and me and every Canadian."

In the Bank President's words: "The underlying trend for Canada is decidedly upward—we are still a young and growing country." There are immediate problems, to be sure. But Canada's unfolding resources and growing capacity to develop them can make the next fifty years a half century of realization of Laurier's famous quotation: "The twentieth century belongs to Canada."

*For the full text of the address by Mr. H. L. Enman, President, to the 118th Annual Meeting of The Bank of Nova Scotia, write to the Publicity Department, General Manager's Office, Toronto, Ontario.

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