

### THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

#### THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Lesson for January 23)

Golden Text—Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. —Acts 1:8

#### THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

By J. C. Macaulay, D.D.

##### Approach to the Lesson

The Bible has so much to say about the Holy Spirit that no one has been able to deal exhaustively with this great theme. As early as Genesis 1:2 we read about Him, and in the last chapter of Revelation He still appears.

Our Lord made several statements about the Holy Spirit which indicate the reverence and the honor in which we must hold Him. Here is one: "Whoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven (Luke 12:10). We cannot here discuss "the unpardonable sin," but only draw attention to this solemn verse to remind ourselves of the profound sanctity which surrounds the person of the Holy Spirit. Then there is the verse in our lesson, John 16:7: "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." This surely indicates the importance, in our Lord's view, of the Holy Spirit's presence with His people, and should stir in us a very high regard for the third person of the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Spirit has been called "Christ's other self." Our Lord spoke of Him as "another Comforter," the one who was to take His place with the disciples, but whose presence with them would be superior in two respects — He would remain with them, and that He would be an indwelling presence, and so closer than the Christ of the Incarnation. At the same time, the Holy Spirit did not come to supplant the Lord, or even to replace Him, but rather to communicate the risen, glorified Lord to His people. His entire work revolves around Christ, to make Him known, to make Him real to faith. So He is not the rival of the Lord Jesus, but His second presence, His representative, His agent.

We have a solemn duty to become acquainted with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit—His place in the Godhead, His activities in former ages, His present ministries in this "age of the Spirit." Still more important, it is our privilege and obligation to enter into personal, conscious, vital relation with the Holy Spirit, submitting to His control, receiving His guidance, and realizing His power. But, the more we fulfill this sacred duty, the more we shall find ourselves occupied with the Lord Jesus, knowing Him better, sensing His presence more deeply, and becoming more like Him. "He shall glorify me," said Jesus, and His work in us is fulfilled as Jesus is glorified in us.

##### Verse by Verse

John 16:7—"It is expedient for you that I go away . . . the Comforter . . . I will send him unto you." See what value the Lord put upon the Holy Spirit. Since the coming of the Spirit was contingent upon the Lord's going away (see John 7:39), His departure was actually for the disciples' profit. Who would have dared say that, but the Lord Himself?

Verse 8—" . . . he will reprove the world of sin; and of righteousness, and of judgment." The work of the Holy Spirit is not to convert the world, but to convict it, with respect to the three items here mentioned. This does not necessarily involve a deep sense of sin, righteousness, and judgment in the individual. Where that takes place, it is usually in preparation for conversion. This is a legal work.

Verse 9—"Of sin, because they believe not on me." The ground of conviction is unbelief. So long as men refuse to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, they are still "pilloried" as sinners. As soon as they turn in faith to Him, the conviction is withdrawn.

Verse 10—"Of righteousness, because I go to my Father." Christ at God's right hand is the only righteousness acceptable to God for sinners, and to Spirit points as alone sufficient and available for men.

Verse 11—"Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." The "prince of this world" is Satan, who stands judged by the Cross of Christ. The Cross is the symbol of God's judgment upon all evil, and spells out the certain doom of the Evil One, and of all who take part with him in rebellion.

Acts 2:1—" . . . the day of Pentecost . . . all with one accord in one place." The little company were obeying the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4) Pentecost was fifty days after the Passover.

Verse 2—" . . . sound . . . as of a rushing mighty wind . . . filled all the house." The first

of three phenomena accompanying the advent of the Holy Spirit. Just as the heavier notes of a great organ fill every part of a cathedral, so that one actually feels the reverberation, so this sound like a mighty wind filled the whole place, as if heralding the coming of the Spirit.

Verse 3—" . . . cloven tongues like as of fire." They sat upon each of them." The second phenomena, divided tongues, like flames (it does not say each of the group), resting on each of the five.

Verse 4—" . . . filled with the Holy Ghost . . . to speak with other tongues." Compare the phrases used in 1:5, 1:8, and here. The best explanation seems to be that several operations took place at once. Here the emphasis is on the filling, with the third accompanying phenomenon, speaking in other languages.

Chap. 4:8—" . . . Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost . . . Ye rulers of the people . . ." This does not mean that Peter had been "unfilled" since 2:4 and had to be refilled. But it was in the power of the spirit's fullness that he spoke.

Verse 9—" . . . the good deed . . . by what means he is made whole." For the "good deed", see 3:1-8. It had become a test case.

Verse 10—" . . . by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead . . . doth this man stand . . . whole." Here is a fearless statement. The name of a dead man could not empower such actions. Peter unequivocally charged the Jewish leaders with the death of Christ, and as boldly affirmed the action of God in raising Him from the dead. Here was the secret of power—a risen, living Lord.

Verse 11—"This is the stone . . . which is become the head of the corner." A reference to Psalm 118:22, quoted also by our Lord in Matthew 21:42.

Verse 12—"Neither is there salvation in any other . . . none other name . . . whereby we must be saved." The exclusive claim which has stumbled many. Christ is not one of many saviours, but the only Saviour, chosen of God, and the only one who has met the requirements of saviourhood.

##### The Heart of the Lesson

Our Lord regarded the coming of the Holy Spirit as a very important event. So much so, that He declared His own departure, upon which the coming of the Holy Spirit was contingent, to be profitable for His disciples. Now it was not the mere event that our Lord was considering, but the ministry which the event would initiate. In other words, Jesus told His disciples that the presence of the Holy Spirit was of more value to them than His own bodily presence. That would be hard for them to accept, but in the light of His death, resurrection, and ascension, and the present work of the Holy Spirit, we can see why it was so.

Our lesson portions present only a few of the manifold ministries of the Holy Spirit. The first is in regard to the world, stated by our Lord in John 16:7-11. It is a ministry of conviction, with respect to three matters—sin, righteousness and judgment. Notice the ground of this conviction. Men stand convicted of sin so long as they fail to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing short of the righteousness of the Man in the Glory is accepted by the Holy Spirit. The Cross, which sealed the judgment of Satan and his hosts (John 12:31-33; Col. 2:14, 15) is the guarantee of judgment for the unbeliever, as it is the certainty of salvation for the believer. This ministry of the Holy Spirit is not necessarily one of salvation. It is stated as directed toward "the world", not particularly toward the elect. It is rather of a legal character, but in the case of the elect it stirs to a sense of need, to repentance, and faith. Such a ministry does mean that when we testify to men concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment, we have the backing of the Holy Spirit. Is not that why even Felix trembled? (Acts 24:25).

The promise was fulfilled. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came. Some remarkable demonstrations marked the great event—the mysterious sound "as of a rushing mighty wind," the "cloven tongues like as of fire," and the speaking in other tongues. The essential feature of the event, however, was that "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." This is what accounted for their startling advance in understanding, in courage, in power, and effectiveness, till that puzzled, baffled, trembling group was stirring all Jerusalem and challenging the very rulers who had condemned Jesus to death, and thousands were committing themselves to the faith of the crucified, risen Saviour, including great numbers of the priests (Acts 6:7).

Nor was this the passing experience of a moment. These Spirit-filled men suddenly became the real masters of Jerusalem. The attempts of the Sanhedrin to restrain them

### VICTORIA SQUARE

Thursday, Jan. 13

Birthday greetings to Mr. Gordon Mortonson for January 16; to Mr. Bill Sandle for Jan. 17; and to Miss Margaret Gee who will be seven years old on January 19. Belated birthday greetings to Miss Patsy Valliere who was seven years old on January 6.

The Sr. Women's Institute held its annual party in the

Community Hall on Tuesday evening of last week. There were thirteen tables of euchre. Prize-winners were: Ladies—(1) Mrs. Reid Brumwell; Consolation—Mrs. Elaine Trussell. Gents: (1) Mr. Lloyd Beatty; Consolation—Mr. Reid Brumwell and Mr. Rae Donaldson (tied). Door prize—Mr. Harry Barber. Spot Prize—Mr. Rae Donaldson. Following the refreshments square-dancing was enjoyed.

A speedy recovery is wished for all in the community who have been ill with the colds and the flu.

The Young People held a very enjoyable skating party at Unionville on Saturday evening. After the skating they returned to the home of Misses Shirley and Audrey Gee where delicious refreshments were served. Following the refreshments a short meeting was held to have the election of officers for 1935: Pres., David Boynton; Vice-pres., Denton Brumwell; Secy-Treas., Ronald Gee.

Master Johnny Wilson of Toronto spent several days last week with his grandparents,

Mr. and Mrs. John Empringham.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Nichols spent the weekend with friends at Smith's Falls.

Mrs. Mumberson of Barrie visited a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Mumberson.

Congratulations are extended to former residents of the community, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burton, on the birth of a daughter.

The annual meeting of the Sunday School was held in the Sunday School room on Wednesday evening of last week. Following is the list of officers and teachers:

Supt., Mr. R. F. Boynton; Asst. Supt., Mr. Douglas Gee; Secretaries, Messrs Nelson Boynton and Wilbur Brumwell.

Treas., Mr. Roy Glover; Pianist, Miss Coral Perkins; Assistants, Miss Coral Perkins; Assistants, Mrs. Nelson Boynton. Teachers—Beginner's, Mrs. S. Boynton and Mrs. P. Bennett; Primary—Miss Shirley Gee; Juniors—Mr. Lawson Mumberson; Asst., Mr. Ray Bennett and Mr. Harry Barber; Inter-

mediate, Mrs. Cecil Nichols;

Asst., Mrs. E. Perkins; Young Ladies, Miss Coral Perkins; Asst. Mrs. Mumberson; Young Men's, Mr. Douglas Gee; Asst. Mr. Barry King; Adult Class, Mr. L. L. Nichols; Asst., Mr. Percy Bennett and Mrs. R. F. Boynton.

The installation of Officers of the Sunday School will be held during the church service next Sunday, January 16, at 2:30 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the W.A. will be held in the Sunday School room on Wednesday evening, Jan. 19, at 8 o'clock. The guest speaker will be Mrs. Startt, wife of Dr. Startt. Mrs. Startt is a sister of Mrs. Dalton, Rummey. A hearty invitation is extended to all the ladies in the community to attend.

The annual Sunday School Convention will be held in the United and Lutheran Churches at Unionville on Thursday, Jan. 20.

The annual meeting of the Toronto Centre Presbytery of the W.A. will be held in Fairlawn United Church on Friday, Jan. 21, commencing at 10 a.m. The regular monthly meet-

ing of the Mission Band will be held in the Sunday School room on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 15, at 2:30. All the children in the community are invited to come.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bennett and Ray spent Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cook and Florence of Lansing.

Mrs. Poe of Toronto visited several days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Harmon and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Johnson of Headford had Sunday evening dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bennett and Ray.

Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Willows and Mrs. B. Plews spent Sunday with friends at Uxbridge.

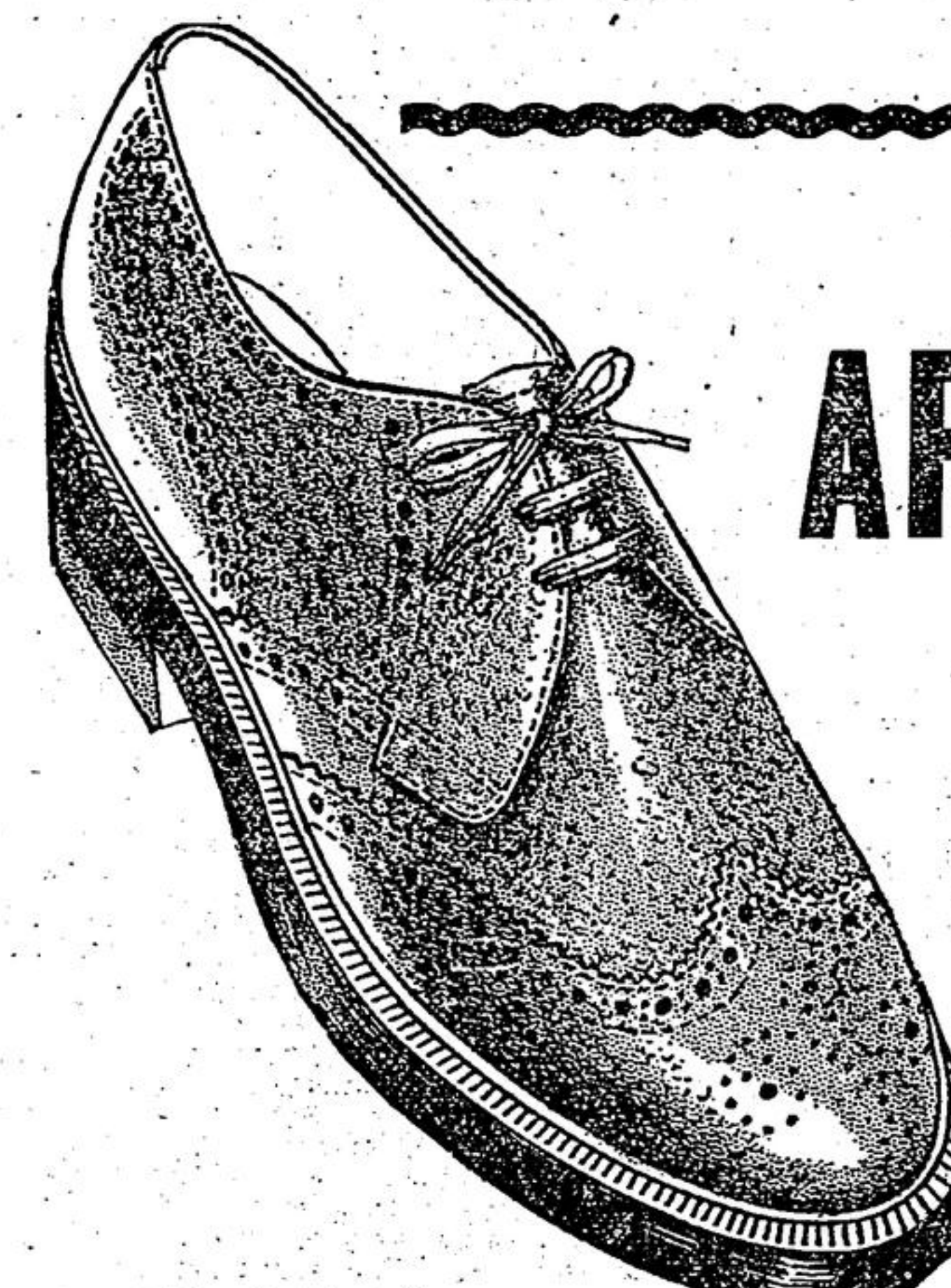
There will be another euchre party in the Community Hall on Tuesday evening, Jan. 18, at 8 o'clock. It will be sponsored by the Hall committee. A hearty invitation is extended to everyone to attend. Good prizes!

The year-end school holidays always sort of ruin the three Rs for mom—rest, relief and relaxation.

The least considered man of the year is the taxpayer.



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Reg.	Sale
\$17.95	\$12.95
\$18.50	\$13.50
\$16.95	\$11.95
\$21.95	\$16.95
\$11.95	\$ 8.95
\$10.95	\$ 7.95
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\$ 8.95	\$ 6.50
\$ 7.95	\$ 5.95
\$ 6.95	\$ 4.95

BOY'S	
Reg.	Sale
\$ 6.95	\$ 4.95
\$ 5.95	\$ 3.95
\$ 4.95	\$ 3.25
\$ 3.95	\$ 2.50

Children's	
Reg.	Sale
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\$ 5.95	\$ 3.95
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