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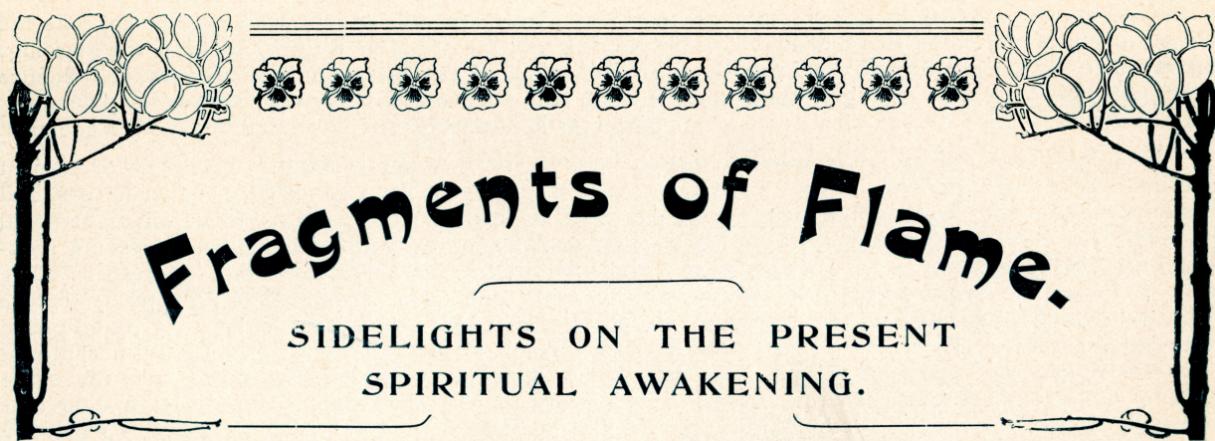
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# Fragments of Flame.

## SIDELIGHTS ON THE PRESENT SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.

OCTOBER, 1908.

No. 2.

## “Cautious Aggressiveness.”



It is now generally conceded by all thoughtful Christians who have given time and careful and prayerful consideration to the subject, that the Pentecostal Movement which has, to some extent, visited all lands, has brought untold blessing to thousands of saintly hearts, deepened the spiritual life of large numbers of Church members, and given a stimulus to Missionary interests beyond that of any former Revival. Dr. A. B. Simpson, President of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, who is exceedingly cautious in his comments on this subject, says in his Annual Report, just published:—

“We believe there can be no doubt that in many cases remarkable outpourings of the Holy Spirit have been accompanied with genuine instances of the gift of tongues and many extraordinary manifestations. This has occurred both in our own land and in some of our foreign missions. Many of these experiences appear to be not only genuine, but accompanied with a spirit of deep humility and soberness and free from extravagance or error. And it is admitted that in many of the branches and States where this movement has been strongly developed and wisely directed there has been a marked deepening of the spiritual life of our members and an encouraging increase in their missionary zeal and liberality. It would, therefore, be a serious matter for any candid Christian to pass a wholesale criticism or condemnation upon such movements or presume to “limit the Holy One of Israel.”

The above statement is followed by some timely cautions against some serious errors in the teaching, and the manifestations of an un-Christly spirit which the writer had witnessed in some sections. But this in no way questions the divine origin and reality of the movement. Rev. A. S. Worrell, formerly College President, and the author of the latest translation of the New Testament, who has travelled extensively over the United States and mingled with large numbers of the Pentecostal people, says:—

“After making full allowance for the false teachers that have become connected with it, and the numerous counterfeits that follow these, it is still true that there are hundreds and even thousands whose experience and lives meet every essential demand of the Scriptures. They are a wonderfully joyful people; they revere and honour the name of Jesus far beyond any other people we have ever seen; they (as a general rule) seem to be more abandoned to the will and service of God than almost any others known to us, being willing to go to the ends of the earth at the call of Jesus and leaning on Him only for their support; and the fact that so many of them speak with other tongues to the glory and praise of God, and are thus leading people to Christ,—all these facts, after making due allowance for the devil's counterfeits and perversions, serve to thrust upon the Christian world a *real crisis*, whether men realize it or not.”—*Trust*.

We have kept in close touch with the Pentecostal Movement since we heard of its first manifestations in Los Angeles, until the present time. We have attended several meetings, have come into contact with many who claim to possess the Pentecostal Baptism, and have received letters concerning the movement from all parts of the world, and after two years of careful thought and prayerful investigation, we unhesitatingly confirm the statements of Dr. Simpson and Brother Worrell, that God has been visiting His people with Pentecostal fulness and blessing, and there are thousands of unimpeachable witnesses who can testify to the fact.

We know full well that many prominent religious leaders, and multitudes of Christian people, are perfectly oblivious of what is transpiring around them; while others who have knowledge of the facts, do not consider themselves under any obligation to give them any serious attention; hence, they neither approve or oppose, but let the matter severely alone. There are others who have heard, or imagined, or witnessed what they judge to be indications of fanaticism and have frequently and openly denounced the whole movement as of the devil, and seem to think they have

a Divine commission to banish it from the earth. There are still others who readily concede the Divine origin of the movement and that God is pouring out the "Latter Rain" fulness of the blessing, preparatory to the coming of the Lord, who are so afraid of the intermingling of Satanic influence that they hesitate about giving it their endorsement and do not wish to be known as its defenders. Their extreme caution causes them to be a much greater hindrance to the work than its avowed enemies.

Now we must not be understood to mean that we do not appreciate the necessity of utmost caution. In these "perilous times" its wise exercise is indispensable. But we simply wish to sound the note of warning that undue caution on our part is likely to prevent the reception of personal blessing and to hinder some other timid, hesitating soul from the exercise of the venturesome reckless faith that sometimes seems necessary to obtain the richest blessing heaven has to bestow. We dare not wait till every theory fits into accordance with our ideas of reason and propriety before faith ventures to appropriate the promised good. Faith leaps into the seeming void, but finds a sure landing-place. There has never yet been a spiritual movement that has found ready acceptance with the masses of religious people, and the deeper the spirituality of the movement the more general and relentless has been the criticism. "For My thoughts are not as your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. lv., 8, 9.) Never till the day of eternity dawns will we be able to comprehend all the seeming confusion and intricacies of God's work; but there is a danger lest our extreme caution to avoid mistakes will rob us of the blessing heaven intends that we should have, and by our example discourage others from launching out into the deep and risking all for God's best. Let us keep close to the Word and be willing to be "fools for Christ's sake," and like Paul, "become a fool in glorying" (II Cor. xii., 11.)

Extract from *The Way of Faith*.

## Is the Speaking in Tongues doing any Good?



WE do not glorify the tongues. It may be there is truth in the contention of some critics that the tongues is the least of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In our first issue reference was made to some of the apparent uses of the speaking in tongues, but the question is often asked, "Is the speaking in tongues doing any good?" Well, the few instances quoted below, and selected from very many, from all parts of the world, are an attempt to show that the Holy Spirit, who gives utterance in tongues, at the same time, and further, is blessing Saints and sinners on a scale and to a degree unknown for years. At Portland, Oregon,

U.S.A., the Lord has been working. We read in *The Apostolic Faith* :—

### On the Streets.

"God is saving souls on the streets in Portland through a Gospel Wagon. The band of workers can in this way move from corner to corner and hold several meetings on the same afternoon. Hundreds gather to hear the Gospel. One Sunday afternoon, at the first stand, eight knelt in the street and wept their way to the Lord, with hundreds of earnest souls looking on. All jeering and scoffing left the faces of the people as the meeting went on. At the next stand God poured out His Spirit. Many raised their hands for prayer and twelve more men knelt on the street; how God worked! As the wagon moved off a poor drunken boy, that we afterwards learned wanted to commit suicide, came up and they put him into the wagon, and brought him to the camp meeting; that night he, with others that came, was saved. One afternoon, when a number knelt on the street, one poor drunken fellow kept saying, "I am going to hell, I am going to hell." The workers rebuked the devil off from him and he was gloriously saved and sobered and got into the wagon and went to the next stand and testified in power. Ten knelt there in the street and were prayed for and some clearly saved."

### In Gaol.

"Some of the Saints went to the Gaol, and one man who heard the Gospel went to his cell and wept like a child. He cried to God and was saved. He came to the mission and was sanctified. God helped him to make restitution. He was powerfully baptised with the Holy Ghost at the Camp meeting and God is using him to save others. In his testimony he says—'I am praising the Lord for what He has done for me. He saved my soul from Hell. I was a drunkard, a thief, a gambler, a blasphemer and possessed with devils for 25 years. I have been in gaol a number of times. But I praise the Lord, He has washed all my sins away in His precious Blood. He has sanctified me and baptised me with the Holy Spirit and fire, with the Bible evidence of speaking in other tongues. My heart is full of love for everyone. This is a wonderful salvation, and I am determined to press onward by the help and grace of God. Amen.—Your brother in Christ Jesus,

THOS. SICKLING, Portland, Or."

### In a Saloon.

"In St. Paul, some of those who were baptised with the Holy Ghost were rescued from the slums. Now they have turned to rescuing others. At one of the meetings in a saloon the four workers were all from the depths themselves. God's mighty power was manifest from the first. The saloon-keeper opened to the Gospel and refused to sell drinks while the service was in progress. As those who once drank in that very saloon poured forth in prayer and song their praise to Jesus, how can I forget the scene when one sister, lifted from a life of shame in that very saloon, pleaded with those who had been her companions in sin to come to Jesus. Or the scene as she threw her arms around a poor fallen woman, as they wept on each other's breasts, pleading with her to lead a pure life."

### Further.

"Five drinking men heard the Gospel on the street in Portland from the Gospel Wagon. They agreed together that they would quit drinking and broke their bottles on the way home. Praise God. One of them came out to the camp meeting and told how they had kept their promise for five weeks."

## The Sick Healed.

"The Lord wonderfully saved a dear rescued girl in the hospital. The Saints took her to one of their homes and she was healed of an incurable disease and sanctified. One night at the camp meeting she came forward and asked to be prayed for that she might be healed of some small ailment. The power of God fell upon her and baptised her with the Holy Ghost, and she spake in several languages and the Lord used her mightily that night.

"A sinner was healed of cancer in the stomach. He had been given up by the doctors. When hands were laid on him for healing, he says he felt the power of God burn that cancer in his stomach. He is now able to eat anything. Is on the grounds.

"Some few weeks ago the Lord healed a woman that ten doctors had tried to cure. She could not keep anything in her stomach. Her side was all swollen up. They had fought the Pentecostal Movement and called it or the Devil. They were Lutherans. As the Saints prayed the woman said she saw the Lord behind them and no one could make her believe it was the work of the Devil. She begun eating; her side going down. We thank God for His wonderful power."

## In another Town.

"In U.S.A., Cleveland, Tenn., we read of the following:—'We cannot begin to describe the great revival that is sweeping the town and country here. We can only say it is wonderful. Crowds are coming from far and near. The large tent is filled to overflowing and the penitent form so crowded with seekers we can hardly find room to work. Deep conviction seemed to be settled down upon the people, and they are coming for miles around asking for prayers and crying to God for mercy. Glory to Jesus. Pentecost has broken out at the Baptist Church here, and leading members are seeking and receiving the blessing, regardless of their preachers' oppositions. One hundred and thirty-seven professions have been made that we have kept count of since the meeting began. We do not know how many more. People are seeking God and finding Him in their own homes. The whole town is moved and people taking Bibles to their places of business and searching the Scriptures daily, and in the different homes the passer-by can hear prayers and praises ascending to God. This is, indeed, the most powerful and convincing meeting, the preachers say, they were ever in. Praise our God for ever for the Pentecostal power He is restoring to His Church. We are looking to Him for more mighty things in Cleveland, and will not be surprised at anything the Lord may do to convince people of His power. One hundred have already received their blessing with Bible evidence, and numbers still earnestly seeking. The sick are also being instantly healed by the power of God. Praise His name.'"

Extract from *The Bridegroom's Messenger*.

**TWO PROMINENT LEADERS** have recently sought and obtained the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the accompanying evidence of the speaking in tongues. One—Mrs. Carrie Judd Montgomery, widely known in America, a prominent Holiness teacher and talented Editress. Mrs. Montgomery, in a recent article, describes how at first she was opposed to the movement but was convinced by the holy, quiet lives of power and gladness met with in those connected with it. She did not like the noise of the public meeting, so sought it quietly in a friend's house, Mrs. Simons, of Chicago. The Editor visited this Godly woman and heard from her own lips how God had been entreated of, and given the priceless gift to her, she being so cut off from public meetings, her presence being needed at home in the care of an aged mother. Mrs. Montgomery received a mighty filling of the Holy Ghost, speaking for two hours in a wondrous flow of words in a foreign tongue as the Spirit gave utterance. May the Lord mightily use her in His service.

Second—An Archdeacon of the Episcopal Church of Canada, Winnipeg, Ontario. Several members of the Archdeacon's family are glorifying God in tongues. The following letter from the Archdeacon is quoted from "Confidence" (a free Pentecostal paper, to be obtained from the Secretaries, 11, Park Lea Road, Sunderland; those interested should order this):—

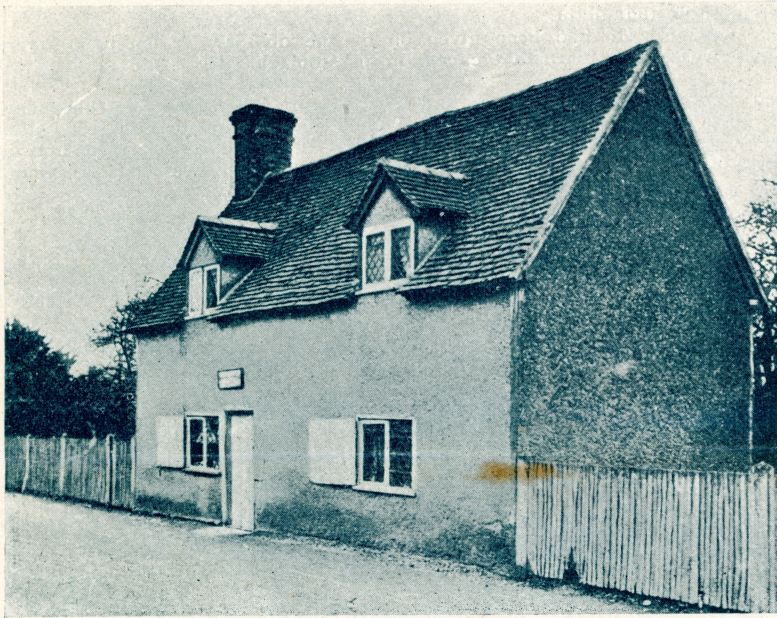
"I am not sure whether I told you how God wonderfully filled me with the Holy Ghost and took the fear of man out of my heart and gave me much power in witnessing for Him. Our home is like a Heaven below and is given to God for His use, and, I need not say, ourselves also. I do thank God with all my heart for such a brother in the work as we have in Sunderland. May God make it a power in the Churches in that part of the land. Regarding this blessed work of the Holy Ghost, I feel we are only just touching the fringe, as it were; God is trying to get a people that He can trust, but the enemy is very busy. This movement is world-wide and is destined to fill the land. Now we are but a little flock, but God is going to use this apparently little thing. . . . The great thing is the need of teaching on this most important matter. Young Believers, not familiar with God's Word, are sure to get on what is not strictly spiritual, and give the enemy cause for criticism. I am sure that God is able to take care of His flock without our help; but at the same time, He will use us if we fully surrender ourselves to Him."

**BLESSINGS IN BUNYAN'S TOWN.**—During the past few months, since May, the Lord has been graciously working in Bedford. We have had the assistance of friends from America,



JOHN BUNYAN'S MONUMENT.

of Pastor and Mrs. Polman from Amsterdam, Messrs. Tomlinson and Evans from South Wales, and latterly, Brother and Sister Snellgrove and Brother Berry. Several have received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, speaking in other tongues. The work in the open air has been greatly blessed of God, some forty having given their hearts to the Lord. The first decision was a little girl of 12. The rather bore good testimony to the change in his daughter's life. There have been many young people and not a few children, also two almost entire families. One man was out of work. He got saved, found more work than he could do in answer to prayer, then gave up his pipe and has since received sanctification by faith and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Several are seeking. There is a spirit of readiness to listen in the town. Will readers please pray for more power, more fire, more devotion in Bunyan's Town.



BUNYAN'S COTTAGE, ELSTOW, NEAR BEDFORD.

August the Lord has been touching a few hearts in the open air; some 20 of all sorts, having yielded to God, Miss Sisson, Mrs. and Miss Beruldsen (from Edinburgh) Mr. Norman Finney (Sunderland) and Mr. William Andrew assisting. There was also some interest shewn in this present Pentecostal work. It is proposed to commence some work in London, about the 15th October, and the prayers of God's people are earnestly asked.

Copies of this paper can be had gratis from CECIL POLHILL, 9, Gloucester Place, W.

**A WORK OF GOD.**—Did you ever realize such a time of waiting upon God? We have never seen such a whole-hearted religious interest as is manifest on the part of the "Pentecost" body of to-day. They are giving themselves wholly to it, and not simply in seeing visions and dreaming dreams either. There has been far too much of an effort after demonstration which has resulted in many spurious things. And yet these people have been largely honest in their extremes, but misguided. But the giving of self to prayer, intercession and whole-hearted consecration has been and is truly wonderful. It augurs something of tremendous import, a new departure evidenced as plainly as any one could wish. Dare we sneer at this? Beware of judging lightly of this phenomenon. In general I have never met a people so in earnest and honest, as a whole, despite their weaknesses (largely natural) and mistakes. Such depth of real love, passion and desire for the glory and realisation of God I have never seen. They are largely children and need wise fathers, but their motive is, in general, beyond question according to their understanding. There is a receptiveness and fellowship in the Spirit I have failed to find elsewhere.

Let no one grow discouraged, doubtful or failing. God is faithful. The end of the matter is sure. We must endure "to the end." The time will "fully come." Have patience, faith and pray. The present feature is largely a call to prayer. The "baptism of the Spirit" to-day, administered by God, is opening up this necessity, vision and desire to us. This will produce the rest, except it be allowed to miscarry through lack of understanding, disobedience or loss of interest. Evan Roberts' vision of the great universal outpouring was seen to reach its climax through the completion of the world-wide, Spirit-created, prayer chain ministry of intercession. We can be satisfied, and satisfy the heart of God, with nothing less. This is the whole thought, plan, purpose, legitimate, necessary outcome of a true "Pentecost." So let it be. Always and only this. Press the battle to the gates, unitedly. Now "if we are willing to receive it, this is Elijah which is to come." It is the John the Baptist, forerunner of mightier things. It is a "sign" to prepare the way for the last great outpouring of the Spirit of grace and supplication in this dispensation, before the mightier advent of the Christ, to catch away His Bride. It is in the "spirit and power of Elijah" again a time of the manifestation of the miraculous, supernatural, in its connection, as always. It must culminate not in a mere selfish blessing, but in the completion of the number of the Bride, to be delivered from the "tribulation" wrath of God, as Noah's ark floated above the waters of judgment and the Christians at Jerusalem escaped to Pella, A.D. 70. So we shall rise above God's last great storm clouds, with Jesus, in the air.

Extract from *The Way of Faith*, article by F. Bartleman.