

## BAPTISM OF DANGER

Now we are to begin to see the awful progression of this error. The best these leaders have to offer becomes the worst they have to endure!

QUESTION- "Why are those who receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost so often misled by the enemy in guidance and action?"

EVAN ROBERTS (Acknowledged leader in the holiness Welsh Revival of 1904-5, and co-author of the book *War On the Saints*, as well as the *Overcomer* magazine in its formative years) - "Up to the time of receiving the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, the Christian obeys God from principle—that is, from a sense of right and wrong; but when he is baptized by the Spirit, he is conscious that he has come into contact with a Person, and begins to obey a Person. It is then that the demons begin to counterfeit that Person, and the soul is liable to be misled unless he is forearmed by knowing their existence, and the methods of their working.

"Immediately after the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, all temptations may seem to cease, and it seems as if there is 'no devil,' or that he is unable to touch the believer; but the enemy was never so busy, for now he is planning a counterfeit of the Divine workings. The temptation to sin appears to cease, but the enemy has only ceased to tempt with a view to getting the soul blinded to its own condition, and to the counterfeit of the Divine with which he is planning to deceive him."

QUESTION- "Why, after the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, should the believer be so specially open to the deceiver's workings; and, with the Holy Spirit so manifestly in possession, how can 'ground' be so possible, or the believer so open to the deceiver's approach?"

J. Penn-Lewis- "Possibly because in preceding years, through yielding to sin, an evil spirit may have obtained access to body or mind, and, hiding deeply in the structure of the man, never be detected, or dislodged. The manifestation of this demon possibly being so apparently 'natural,' or so identified with the person's character, as to have had unhindered sway in his being; such as some peculiar idea in the mind being considered as part of the

man's idiosyncrasy; some habit of body, as part of the upbringing of the man himself, therefore 'put up with' by others, and looked upon by the believer as a lawful thing, or of trivial importance; or else this demon had lodgment through some secret sin known only to the person, or through some disposition which, gave him sway.

"The Baptism of the Spirit takes place, and the Holy Spirit fills the spirit of the man; the body and mind are 'surrendered' to God, but hidden secretly in one, or both, is the demon, or demons, which obtained lodgment years before, but who are now breaking forth into activity, and hide their 'manifestations' under cover of the true workings of the Spirit of God, dwelling within the inner shrine of the spirit.

The result of this is, that for a time, the heart is filled with love; the spirit is full of light and joy; the tongue is loosed to witness, but ere long a 'fanatical spirit' may be detected creeping in, or a subtle spirit of pride, or self-importance, and self-aggrandizement, concurrent with the pure fruits of the Spirit." (War On the Saints, pp. 54, 55.)

Here we will see a faltering, and a wondering why that which they consider to be their cardinal blessing, actually becomes their worst enemy— with nearly everyone who enters the experience ending in wreckage.

"As we glance back over the history of the Church, and watch the rise of various 'heresies' or delusions—as they have sometimes been called—we can trace the period of deception as beginning with some great spiritual crisis, such as that which, in later years, we have termed 'the Baptism of the Holy Ghost'; a crisis in which the man is brought to give himself in full abandonment to the Holy Spirit, and in so doing thus opens himself to the supernatural powers of the invisible world.

"The question whether this surrender to 'obey the Spirit,' is one that is in accord with Scripture, should be examined in view of the way in which so many whole-hearted believers have been misled, for it is strange (sic) that an attitude which is Scriptural should be so grievously the cause of danger, and often complete wreckage, to so many devoted children of God."

“We have seen that the period in the believer’s life wherein he receives the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the special time of danger from the evil supernatural world. Few go through this crisis without deception by the enemy in more or less degree, and only those who cling to the use of their reasoning faculties at this time, can hope to be saved from the catastrophe of becoming a victim to the subtle workings of the evil supernatural powers.

“If the believer does become deceived at the time he is baptized with the Spirit, almost immediately after the highest point of his experience, he begins through deception to descend into a pit which ultimately means the depths of darkness, bondage and misery, until he is undeceived and returns to a normal path. Those who do not discover the deceptions, sink into deeper deception, and become practically useless to God, and the Church.” (War On the Saints, pp. 50-55, 279.)

Let us insert here a timely word from Dr. Wm. G. Scroggie: “Thank God, we may and should be filled with the Spirit, with a fulness which means nothing less than the dethronement of self, and the enthronement of Christ, or, in the terminology of Paul, the reckoning of self dead in Christ’s death, and of ourselves newly alive in His resurrection. The craving today, on the part of many believers, for sensuous signs, is most unhealthy; it is destructive of sober Bible study, and invariably leads to pitiful extremes of belief and conduct. Let us prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good. I feel compelled, therefore, to warn all seekers after fuller blessing against this un-Scriptural teaching about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, lest such be led into darkness and doubt, and unwittingly be brought under the power of the enemy.” (Baptism of the Spirit, p. 29.)

Now Evan Roberts takes up the task of further revelation of the blackness of the ‘blessing’: “Neither conversion nor regeneration, nor the Baptism of the Spirit guarantees absolute protection from the deception of demons; the first is the judicial passing over the line from death to life; the second is the beginning of life, and the third the breaking of the spirit dawn. Not one of these gives him the full light that will meet all his need.

“With the waves of Revival that have come in the last seven years, there came also perverting spirits, deceiving those who had received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. And although these believers received a spirit-consciousness, yet this is not sufficient to keep them from the wiles of the enemy. There is need for spiritual **understanding**. They were pressed back in their spiritual life; their service to God and the Church was diminished, and their testimony grew colder, with the danger of imitating in the flesh what they did in the spirit, for they know not the way to walk after their spirit.”

“The work of delivering the believers from the grip of the doctrines of demons is neither light nor easy, because the man and the demons are one in the doctrine, and it takes considerable time to turn the man’s will and mind to side with the truth which will set him free.

“The deluge is already on the Church. I was burdened with the need of delivering souls from Satanic deception and possession, and that these should stand fully victorious over all the powers of darkness. Necessity was laid upon me to give myself to prayer and to this warfare, to hasten the deliverance of the saints from the tyranny of the Deceiver.” —Evan Roberts (1912 Overcomer, p. 182.)

These leaders, through their ‘Baptism,’ led their followers into spiritual trouble, and now they struggle to get them out!