

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH

By Dr. P. F. Bresee

Without the manifest presence of the Holy Ghost any church is a failure. It may be a great machine, wheels within wheels, but it is without life and power. Such an organization bears the same relation to the Church of Christ that a dead body bears to the man. A dead body is organized matter; it is in the form, and has the appearance of a man, but for all purposes for which a man was created it is a useless thing, so with a church. It is organized humanity; in many respects it looks like the real thing; but for the purposes for which the Church was called into being, it is utterly useless. It may amuse, entertain, instruct men, but to lift men out of their sins and take sin out of them it is powerless to do so.

If Jesus Christ baptizes with the Holy Ghost, and we profess to be His followers, then we ought to have His baptism. If we bear His Name, and this baptism is the peculiar fact of this dispensation, then it is ours to have, and lead others to it. A so-called church which will not press it upon men is unworthy of the name. We are to seek life, abundant life, through the baptism with the Holy Ghost. It is He who purifies, who opens and makes vivid the Word of the Lord, and imparts power to proclaim and witness to the truth. And when He finds a dwelling place in human hearts, He will convince other souls of sin and righteousness and judgment, and the work of the Lord will go on. God has provided for conquest; He has arranged that His Church should march from victory to victory.

—Dr. P. F. BRESEE.