

GLEANINGS — August 2, A.D. 2015  
The Fulness of the Spirit

It is always good and profitable to seek the whole counsel of God on any subject, and this is especially true in our day when the Old Testament Scriptures are so readily minimized. Consider Exodus 31:2-5 –

"See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship."

The fulness of the Spirit in this man of God did not result in ecstatic or prophetic utterances or the ability to work miracles, but in understanding, knowledge, and skill in craftsmanship.

In Romans 8:9, the apostle Paul delivers a fatal blow to the false teaching that one can be a regenerate (born again) person, but still in need of another inward work of the Spirit to be a REAL Christian: "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**"

There are times when our godly affections and zeal are heightened (*such as when the disciples were with Jesus on the mount of His transfiguration*), just as there are times when hope ebbs and zeal is diminished (*such as when they were huddled in bewilderment and grief shortly before His resurrection*).

But the Bible says "he who calls on the name of Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13), not "he who calls on the Lord and has a certain experience shall be saved." Our salvation does not depend on our feelings or experiences, but on the finished work of Christ alone, which we receive by grace through faith.

Some assert that "speaking in tongues" is inseparably linked with the fulness of the Holy Spirit. As the term is used in the Bible, having the gift of tongues means being divinely gifted to speak other LANGUAGES. And when this gift appeared in the New Testament, those who received the gift were speaking real words that could be understood and/or translated. If nothing is communicated, there is no edifying value.

Paul wrote, "...yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue." (1 Corinthians 14:19)

Ephesians 5:18-21 instructs as about what the fulness of the Spirit is like: "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God."

Do you see one who is submissive, thankful, has a heart filled with melody, and who speaks to others intelligibly and to their edification with skill (remember Bezalel)? There is one filled with the Spirit.

Do you see a professing Christian who draws attention to self by spouting gibberish – usually in a disorderly way and with plenty of vain repetition? Could that be one who is greatly mistaken about what Christian faith and discipleship is all about?