

## **COLIN URQUHART'S WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES**

An address by David C F Wright, DD (1976)

Colin Urquhart's book *When the Spirit Comes*, published by Hodder and Stoughton, is now available in its second impression.

It is one of many books that distort Biblical truth to uphold the cult known as neo-Pentecostalism or the charismatic movement. This cult wants to convince us that the speaking in tongues and dancing, and other things, is the norm for today's Christians and that if you do not have these gifts or desire them then you do not have the Holy Spirit, or you do not have the Holy Spirit completely or, to quote the charismatics, you do not have the fullness of the Spirit.

This is very dangerous teaching and it is simply untrue. This teaching has created great divisions and split families. It has crippled some believers' faith so that they have turned their backs on the Christian gospel.

The charismatics have a lot to answer for. If false teaching is heresy then the charismatics proclaim heresy.

On page 9, Mr Urquhart says that on the receiving the Spirit he felt different. He was bubbling all over with joy. He wanted to go dancing and skipping around the house shouting that he was a son of God. By saying this he may be giving the impression that the Holy Spirit encourages exuberance and that it is a fun thing. The receipt of the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit calls for a reasoned and sensible response not the absurd bubbling effervescent style Mr Urquhart suggests. Those touched by the Lord in the Bible fell on their faces or bowed down and there was reverence and wonder. No flesh shall glory in His Presence (1 Corinthians 1. 29). Show-offs are not accepted. God resists the proud but He exalteth the humble and meek. (James 4. 6)

Romans 8 makes it clear that you cannot be a Christian unless you have received the Holy Spirit. Verse 9 concludes, "Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." The charismatic claim that you receive the Holy Spirit, or the fullness of the Holy Spirit, after conversion, which they call the second blessing, is utter nonsense.

On page 11, Mr Urquhart says, " I started to breath very heavily for a few minutes and then suddenly was filled with a great peace. God was breathing His Spirit into me. I found myself speaking strange words, a language I did not know. It never occurred to me that this was speaking in tongues. I did not understand it."

This implication is that God baptising someone with the Spirit results in strange words and speaking in tongues. There is also a great deal of the personal pronoun 'I' in this book which almost always signals self-importance and pride.

We go to page twelve and the ego trip continues. He writes, " I began to minister personally to people... it was one of the most significant moments of my life when I said to someone, 'The Lord heal you.' And He did".

Divine healing is not dependent on any man. It is dependent on God. A true Christian takes no credit for God's miracles of today.

He continues with an account of a visit in North Wales when everyone was stung by wasps, or bees, but he was not.

This is sickening. He is saying that he is special and more significant than everyone else.

This arrogance puts people off.

The Bible states that God is no respecter of persons. He is impartial.

But it is one of the features of the charismatics. They are so superior. They speak in tongues, they heal (or so they say) and they have the Full Gospel, an inane expression that charismatics use to describe themselves. All other Christians are paupers or spiritually less well-off!

The charismatics and Pentecostals say that we have to wait for the baptism in the Spirit which happens after conversion. The old hymn starts, "Tarry for the Spirit." They rightly point out that the Lord Jesus told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the power of the Holy Spirit came. And it did. But it is not called the baptism in the Spirit. It is called the filling of the Spirit (Acts 2.4)

And it is not applicable to us today. We do not have to go to Jerusalem let alone stay there and wait for the power of the Spirit. It must also be noted that the Lord Jesus gave this promise to His disciples that it would happen not many days hence. There is no doubt then that this filling of the Spirit happened at a specific time and in a specific place, some two thousands years ago. And it was not called the baptism in the Spirit. The Lord Jesus had already given the Holy Spirit to His disciples in John 20.22. The receipt of the Holy Spirit is the baptism in the Spirit. It is the means of conversion and coming into the Body of Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptised into One Body (1 Corinthians 12. 13).

One becomes even more irritated on page 14 when he talks of having prepared nothing for the evening service, except himself. He stood up to preach not knowing what to say and the words just flowed.

That speaks to me of his impotence and every Christian worthy of that name comes to take a meeting with some preparation. If all else fails he can still preach the greatest message of all, the Gospel itself.

In chapter two of this book he becomes more insulting. He likens Christians to coffee pot Christians needing a new lid and a new filling. That is derisory. Does he not know the Scriptures that we are not to set our brother at nought (Romans 14)? Then he talks of his daughter, Andrea, with a dislocated hip joint and not needing any surgery since the Lord healed her. I do not doubt God's healing power but this book is so parochial. On page 18 he writes, " I want to share with you a different way of praying... I want you to relax every part of your body."

Read the Scriptures. Prayer is a dedication, a commitment and pouring out the heart before God. It is not a relaxation class! Relax every part of your body. Someone retorted, "Does this include internal organs and private parts?". Yes, that comment may be offensive but it is as irritating as his suggestion!

This arrogance continues on page 21 where he writes, "Most Christians spiritual lives are a mess!"

What we do know and have monitored and catalogued over many years is that many Christians who were both true and secure in their faith have certainly have their spiritual lives messed up by this charismatic dogma!

Chapter 3, page 25, is equally dreadful. He writes, "We must have more of the Spirit... we were baptised and confirmed. Did we posses the Spirit?"

First of all, the Scriptures teaches that believers are baptised, not children. The order is clear. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved. (Mark 16.16), and, again, then those who gladly received the Word of God were baptised (Acts 2. 41).

Those who were believers were baptised. As they were believers then they had received the Holy Spirit. Read Romans 8. You could not have become a Christian had you not received the Holy Spirit.

What we have in Mr Urquhart's doctrine is contrary to Scripture.

But, then, charismatic teaching is.

In chapter 4, he speaks of the "Know Jesus" groups. Perhaps the author does not mean this but I find it slightly irreverent to refer to the Lord as Jesus. He is Lord. He is the Christ. He is the Son of God and merely to call Him Jesus as you might address the milkman as Fred seems a little demeaning. If we formed a group to write a biography of the Queen would we call ourselves "Know Elizabeth" groups? If we were to have the privilege of meeting her would we say, "Hello, Elizabeth!". The Lord Jesus is greater than any earthly monarch!

On page 31, Mr Urquhart speaks of Stella with a kidney disease and arthritis and how she felt better when she began to praise the Lord. This is trivialising. Anyone feels better if their mind is taken off their problems and pains. Then the author makes another dreadful statement when he writes, "Stella looked drunk with the Holy Spirit." We find that offensive. The Bible tells us that is a sin to be drunk and so to use this expression in a spiritual sense shows the poverty, ignorance and insensitivity of the writer.

It gets worse. On pages 33 and 34 he says that he spoke in tongues when praising the Lord on his own. He then says that we need to pray in the Spirit together and to become free to speak in tongues as the Spirit leads. This gives a strong impression that it is impossible to praise the Lord in English or your native language!

The speaking in tongues is elevated to the greatest gift and something to be desired above all else!

Now, without doubt, that is offensive.

1 Corinthians 13.8 states that tongues will cease. The actual verb used is the verb expressing something that is to happen very soon. It is the same tense as when the Lord Jesus said that the disciples would receive the power not many days hence. It is the verb used to describe the time Jonah was in the belly of the great fish. It has been described as the imminent tense.

The greatest gift of all is the Lord Jesus Himself. The charismatic and the Full Gospel people make too much of the Holy Spirit. The role of the Holy Spirit is to draw attention to Christ! Not to Himself. (John 16.13)

In Acts 19 we meet some disciples of John. Note they were not Christians. Paul explained the Gospel to them which they gladly received. They became converts. They became Christians. They were baptised in the Spirit. By one Spirit are we all baptised into the One Body.

And it is serious error to say that once we are saved we have to wait for the second blessing, the baptism in the Holy Spirit usually evidenced by the speaking in tongues. That makes salvation to be in two parts and seems to make the second part more important and, furthermore, it is the origin of the claim of Full Gospel. It means Christians can have an incomplete type of salvation.

In Luke 23 one of the criminals crucified with the Lord repented and came to salvation. He did not receive the second blessing nor spoke in tongues. Yet the Lord said to him, "Verily, verily, I say unto you that today thou shalt be with Me in Paradise".

The dying thief became a Christian.

Graham Scroggie made an outstanding point once when he said, "The Lord Jesus never spoke in tongues!"

The errors in the book multiply. According to Mr Urquhart speaking the Lord's words makes one a prophet. What utter nonsense! I have seen actors recite the Lord's words. I have had children at school reading the Bible or remembering what they read and quoting the Lord's words. But there are not prophets! They are children!

Not just errors, but heresy. On page 39, he says that the Lord told him to address the evil. To face it in fact. The Lord Jesus said, "Get thee behind me Satan." Only the Lord could say that. He is Lord. We are told to flee from evil, from its very presence. Verses like 1 Thessalonians 5. 22 contradict Mr Urquhart and the Lord would not tell him to do something which His Word condemns.

Mr Urquhart then says that the Lord told him, "I will pour my gifts into your heart and make you mine forever".

This suggests that the way to belong to Christ forever is to have charismatic gifts. It is just another means to elevate charismatic teaching to the highest level to encourage superior Christians and pride which God hates. Someone said that this is akin to Hitler and the Arian race.

The dying thief had no spiritual gifts and he belongs to the Lord forever.

Actually he did. He had the greatest gift of all. Christ Himself.

As well as the tongues controversy there is the healing controversy. On page 42 the author speaks of the Lord healing colds, catarrh, sinus trouble, little aches and pains and stomach disorders and how he learned that Christians can resist these common germs and that we can praise the Lord for victory over them. So, if I get a cold I am a failure as a Christian. That is what is being said.

Here comes the next ego trip. This is on page 46. Terry has received forgiveness and strides out of church quite contented. Mr Urquhart is troubled since he has not had the opportunity to ask the Lord to fill Terry with the Holy Spirit. Mr Urquhart, the Lord does not depend on you for blessing others!

And the hackles rise when we get to page 49. Stuart has opened his life to the Lord but he has not received the baptism in the Spirit. Therefore his faith has to be questioned says the author. But after prayer it happened.

1 Corinthians 12. 13 states that the baptism of the Spirit brings us into the Body of Christ, His Church. That means that when we are converted we are at that moment saved and in Christ's church, in His Body. And this is accomplished by the baptism in the Spirit. There is no doubt about this. The baptism in the spirit is what converts you. You are born of the Spirit (John 3. 8) by this baptism. You are born again. (John 3.7) Some charismatics fuss about baptism in the Spirit, baptism by the Spirit and baptism with the Spirit as if they are different things. This is clearly efforts to try to support their doctrine.

I fell in the water. I was covered by the water. I was wet with water.

All the same thing.

When I became a Christian I was born of the Spirit. I was born again. The Lord Jesus Christ accepted me. He did not put me on probation. As soon as I was converted I was saved and immediately in His Body which is a name given to the collection of all true believers everywhere.

Now the shocking false doctrine. Page 51 says, "We realised that God wants to baptise everyone of His people in the Holy Spirit".

Note the term His People. Well, if they are His people they are baptised in the Spirit. This happens at conversion.

His daughter, Claire, speaks in tongues. She is six years old. So does his daughter, Andrea. She is three years old.

And it becomes even more ludicrous. At a meeting when they were singing O for a thousand tongues to sing,

Mr Urquhart heard the sound of a trumpet as did several other people. But the trumpet stop on the organ refused to work.

As we read the Scriptures the Christian is first to seek the Kingdom of heaven and God's righteousness. Thereafter he is to evangelise. By prayer and witness, by humility and love he is to draw others to Christ. That is so obvious in the Bible that anyone who disputes it has no understanding. Consider James 5. 19 ff. as one example.

On page 68 Mr Urquhart is asked if he is an evangelical. "No," he replies, "I am a Pentecostal Anglican".

Denominations are not authorised by the Lord Jesus. He said that He would build His Church and the word church is singular not plural.

Not only is Mr Urquhart's doctrine wrong so, sadly, are his priorities.

The charismatic and Full Gospel churches and organisations are, sadly, in serious error.

And this causes damage and drives people away from the Gospel truth and, in most cases, permanently.

This talk was first given in 1976.

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