

bid not to speak with tongues." First Corinthians 12 deals with the gifts of the Spirit that are manifested among believers who have received the baptism of the Spirit.

My study of the Bible brought me to three conclusions: (1) The Bible teaches that there is an experience called the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (2) The evidence of the experience is "speaking with tongues." (3) The experience comes after salvation as a second definite experience.

CHURCH HISTORY ENDORSES IT

Although I saw all this in the Bible, I could not help wondering, "If this experience is for all believers, why did God wait 1900 years after the first outpouring before beginning a Pentecostal movement?" I weighed the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the balances of church history and found to my amazement that some of the greatest men in the history of the Church had received and preached this experience.

Justin Martyr (108-168) stated in a letter to Trypho, a Jewish leader, "The church is speaking in tongues, prophesying, and praying for the sick, by the power of the Holy Ghost."

Irenaeus (130-180), another early writer, stated that the church was speaking in tongues and prophesying during its worship.

St. Augustine (345-430) wrote in his diary that he was laying hands on his converts and praying for them, and they were being filled with the Holy Ghost and were speaking in tongues.

In the revival during the Dark Ages which was led by the Waldenses there were both prophecy and tongues present.

Scharff's church history records the fact that the Methodists and Quakers were receiving the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues in the early 1700's.

John Wesley (1703-1791) wrote, "The Holy Ghost enables men to speak in tongues, prophesy, and manifest other spiritual gifts."

Charles Finney (1792-1875), a great theologian and preacher, declared that in the year 1825, while praying, he spoke in a language he had never heard before.

Two of D. L. Moody's biographers, Boyd and Daniel, both state that on one occasion Moody broke out speaking in tongues while he was preaching.

This study convinced me that believers had been receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost since the Day of Pentecost. I realized that if some of the greatest men in the history of the Church had received this experience it was not unreasonable for us today to believe that God still fills people with the Holy Spirit.

I HAVE PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED IT

Not only have I been convinced by the Bible and church history of the reality of the baptism of the Holy Spirit; but I have also received it. There is no better proof of the reality of the baptism of the Spirit than personal experience.

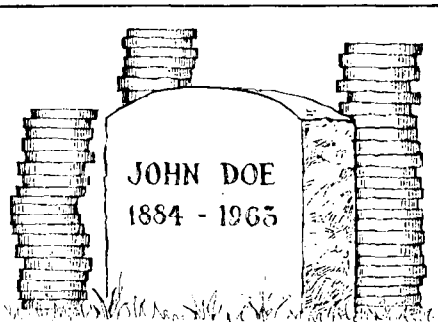
After finishing my training at Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth, Texas, I was sent to pastor a Methodist Church in the city of Lubbock, Texas. Here I became fully aware of my need for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. A Pentecostal minister friend pointed out to me that he who has light and does not walk in it will soon be walking in darkness. I began to pray about the matter.

About this time I went home to visit my parents for a few days. While there I received word that my girl friend, who is now my wife, and was a devout member of the Church of Christ, had received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. She encouraged me and I began to seek the Baptism in a Pentecostal revival that was in progress nearby.

The first night I went to the altar I was very conscious of my position as a Methodist minister. Kneeling very carefully on one knee I prayed something like this: "Here I am, Lord. If you want me to have this experience, give it to me." But I did not receive the Baptism that way. I soon realized I must forget about my position and simply desire the infilling of the Holy Spirit with all my heart. It took a few days of fasting and several hours of prayer to humble my stubborn, proud spirit.

Then one wonderful night I went to the altar wanting more than anything else for God to fill me with the Holy Spirit. I fell on my knees, raised my hands toward heaven, and began to tell Jesus of my love for Him. Soon I was lost in the presence of Christ. My soul was flooded with heavenly glory, peace, and power. My one desire was to love and praise the

(Continued on page thirty)



As Sure as Death and Taxes...

...are the benefits you receive from an Assemblies of God Gift Annuity. It is something you can count on—no fluctuations, no company failures, no misrepresentations, no changes after an agreement has been made.

You decide, without so much as a suggestion from us, how your gift will be used at your demise. You decide whether or not you shall name a second person to receive an income from your annuity. Your wishes are carried out to the letter.

We agree to pay you a regular income, at a set rate of interest up to 8.5%, and this agreement is legally binding. And we pride ourselves on the promptness with which we pay.

Are you interested? Clip the attached coupon and mail it to us. We will send you full particulars concerning the purchase of Assemblies of God Gift Annuities.

DIVISION OF STEWARDSHIP
Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Mo. 65802

Please send me complete information relating to:

PE 92263

Wills Annuity Plan

Name Age

Address

City

State