

ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

General Booth once spoke of a type of Christianity that is a mere charade where there is "Religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without regeneration, morality without God and heaven without hell. The way to such religion is the absence of the work of the Holy Spirit. I fervently believe the church continually needs bursts of reviving power-times of refreshing-as we require to be daily filled with the Holy Ghost. As a dear Welsh friend long passed go glory-Maynard James-said with conviction and deep earnestness-"We have lived in the fires and cannot be content with the smoke"-Baptise us with "Fire today. Rheinhardt Bonnke in these halcyon times has been a notable impersonation of that undying fire.

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

It goes without saying that Joel 2.28 is among the mightiest Old Testament notices of the widespread ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The first reference ever is of course in Genesis 1.2 "The Spirit of God moved upon (or "brooded" to the end of producing life) the face of the waters". Then in Numbers 11.29 Moses prayed "Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them". This text makes evident the singular want of the Holy Spirit and shows that there were but a few chosen vessels and humble prayerful dedicated lives in the O.T. economy upon whom the Spirit came in power. Two of these were obviously Joseph and Daniel. Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar respectively knew the deep spirituality of these their servants- Genesis 41.38 and Daniel 4.8, 9.18. During the early settlement the "Spirit of God clothed himself with Gideon" and at significant times the Spirit of God came upon Samson but more striking is the statement that the "Spirit of the LORD clothed himself with Gideon" Judges 6.34 One man deeply aware of the inward work of the Holy Spirit was David who amid failure cried out, "Take not thy Holy Spirit from me". He was aware that he had grieved the Spirit of God. Psalm 51.11

Then in the early theocracy that prophetic duo Elijah and Elisha walked in the Spirit. cf 2Kings 2 9&15

Another unique reference is Isaiah 48.16 which incidentally is the clearest O.T. text on the doctrine of the Trinity. Let me set it down in full,

Come near to Me, hear this! I have not spoken in secret from the beginning;

From the time that it was I was there

And now the LORD God (The Father) and His Spirit (The Holy Spirit) have sent me
(The Son)

Isaiah also gives us three other notices of the Holy Spirit. In Isaiah 32.15 he also speaks of the "Outpoured Spirit". Then in Isaiah 61.1 the evangelical prophet speaks of the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Now I shall set out the principle doctrines of the Holy Spirit along with songs that commend them to our hearts

1. HOLY GHOST CONVICTION Jesus said "When He the Paraclete is come He will reprove the world of sin of righteousness and judgment-of sin because they believe not in me-of righteousness because I go to my Father-of judgment because the prince of this world is judged" John 16 8-11

I've tired in vain a thousand ways my fears to quell my hopes to raise;
But what I need, the Bible says, is ever only JESUS.
My soul is night, my heart is steel- I cannot see, I cannot feel;
For light, for life I must appeal in simple faith to JESUS.
He died, He lives, He reigns, **He pleads**; there's love in all His words and deeds;
There's all a guilty sinner needs for evermore in JESUS.
Though some should sneer, and some should blame, I'll go with all my guilt and
shame;
I'll go to Him because His name above all names is JESUS.
*These lines were found after his death on the desk of an infidel who had become a
Christian*

2. NEW BIRTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT Jesus spoke with all time significance and total clarity to Nicodemus-the principal theologian of the Sanhedrin and said "You (all) must be born again" with the prelude "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God"(John 3.5)

Do you not feel dear brother?
His Spirit now striving within?
O why not accept His salvation?
And throw off thy burden of sin? (George F Root on Mark 10.49)

3. BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT The best example of this is Pentecost. It is impossible to say it is not necessary and it is not valid to say that it is conversion. John predicted that Jesus would "baptise" with the Holy Ghost ((Matt 3.11, Mark 1.8, Luke 3.16, If we link the experience of Jesus in John 1.32 to the baptism of the Holy Ghost we have to say that **Jesus was already obviously the Son of God** but equally recognise he was setting out upon His ministry. As it was accompanied at Pentecost with "enabling" languages so it should be understood to be manifestly allied to the mission Christ gave us-whether to enhance devotion or evangelism. 1 Corinthians 14. 5, 18 & 39 were once quoted by a believer holding forth on "The Mound" in Edinburgh in defence of Glossolalia (speaking or singing or praying in tongues) With this I take no issue for it is precisely biblical and Paul's apostolic asseveration

He came in tongues of living flame
To teach convince subdue
As powerful as the wind He came
And viewless too (Harriet Auber on John 14.26)

4. FULNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT The Apostles were "filled" with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 4.8-Peter) In Acts 9.17-Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost and in Paphos several years later remained a man "filled with the Holy Ghost" Acts 13.9

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me,
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.(Daniel Iverson)

5. WALKING IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT "Let us walk in step with the Spirit"
Galatians 5.25

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide, ever near the Christian's side,
Gently lead us by the hand, pilgrims in a desert land;
Weary souls for e'er rejoice while they hear that sweetest voice
Whisper softly "Wanderer come, follow me, I'll guide thee home" (Marcus Wells)

6. SANCTIFICATION BY THE INDWELLING SPIRIT In 2 Thessalonians 2.13 is linked to the choice God makes for us- that we should be holy and set apart to God. This is linked to the sealing of the Holy Ghost (Ephesians 1.13) but it is had to do also with the sanctification of the whole spirit body and soul.(1 Thessalonians 5.23). Such sanctification comes through "the truth" taught in our hearts from scripture by the Holy Spirit often using other godly saints and teachers (John 16.13 & 17.17)

He came sweet influence to impart, a gracious willing Guest,
Where He can find one humble heart wherein to rest. (Harriet Auber)
Holy Spirit dwell with me: I myself would holy be;
Separate from sin I would choose and cherish all things good;
And whatever I can be, give to Him who gave me Thee (T. T. Lynch)
Help me to be holy, O Spirit divine;
Come sanctify wholly this temple of Thine;
Now cast out each idol, here set up Thy throne,
Reign reign without rival, supreme and alone! (A. J. Gordon)

7. GRIEVING QUENCHING & RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT Ephesians 4.30 1Thessalonians 5.19 and Acts 7.51 give evidence of three attitudes of deep disharmony with the work of the LORD in the human heart. Lying anger fraud and filthy language grieve the Spirit. To "quench" the spirit is like plugging a volcano or an oil spill. Who would attempt it? None but refractory believers would so live as to endeavour to keep under their control one who seeks to move and inspire us daily. As to resisting the spirit the Pharisees are a splendid example and Saul of Tarsus stands out. If Benjamin was predicted to be "a ravening wolf" Saul of the tribe of Benjamin was exactly this sort of man as he breathed out "treat and slaughter." The joy and wonder is that the Holy Spirit is dynamic and can rise beyond such resistance.

Return O holy Dove return,
Sweet messenger of rest!

I hate the sins that made Thee mourn,
And drove Thee from my breast. (William Cowper)

8. INSPIRATION & REVELATION BY THE SPIRIT Jesus said that Paraclete who stand beside us "will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of himself; but whatever He shall hear, that shall He speak; **and He will show you things to come.**" (John 16:13)

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me
Place in my hand the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee, ready My God Thy will to see;
Open my eyes illumine me, Spirit divine. (Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

Come Holy Ghost for moved by Thee
The prophets wrote and spoke;
Unlock the truth, Thyself the Key,
Unseal the sacred book. (Charles Wesley)

9. PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT Jude speaks of building ourselves up by praying in the Holy Ghost". In! Corinthians 14:14 Paul gives witness to an experience of which he is aware which does not involve the understanding-what has been described as "Holy Groaning". What is being discussed in both these instances is clearly a depth of spiritual engagement that enters the realms of immense concern or joy or spiritual warfare. In Romans 8:26 we are taught that the Holy Spirit is possessed of the most profound capacity to feel our sorrows and bear our burdens and intercedes for us "with unutterable groanings"

Spirit Divine, attend our prayer, and make our hearts Thy home;
Descent with all Thy gracious powers; O come, Great Spirit, come! (Andrew Reed)

Holy Spirit lead us now boldly to the throne of grace;
While our hearts in prayer we bow let Thy presence fill this place;
Holy Spirit heavenly guide lead us to the Saviour's side. (John H Yates)

10. REVIVAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT In Isaiah 57:15 the LORD says, "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit to revive the spirit of the humble and the heart of the contrite ones. By the indwelling Holy Ghost who abides within the church of God as in the individual constant renewal is experienced. In Psalm 85:6 we read "Will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you?" A joyless Church is not to be countenanced. Look again at the N.T teaching on this point.

Saviour, Thy work revive! Here may we see
Those who are dead in sin quickened by Thee;
Come to our hearts tonight, make every burden light,
Cheer Thou our waiting sight; we long for Thee. (Fanny Crosby)

Send the "showers of blessing" as declared in Thy word,

Le the "Spirit of promise" on all flesh be out--poured;
Send "latter rain" on us, till the land overflows,
Till the desert rejoicing, blossoms forth as a rose (Mrs C. H. Mackintosh)

There shall be showers of blessing-this is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Saviour above
Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need;
Mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead. (El Nathan on
Ezek24.26)

- (1) The seventy returned with **JOY** Matthew 10.17
- (2) **There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents Matthew 15 7&10**
- (3) And your **JOY** no man takes from you John16.2
- (4) You will make me full of **JOY** with your countenance Acts 2.28 The disciples had seen the Risen LORD!
- (5) In Pisidian Antioch (which I have visited and where we sang "How Great Thou art" with great **JOY** in a St Paul memorial convention -yes-in Turkey-right there 2000 plus years ago "The disciples were filled with **JOY** and with the Holy Ghost.
- (6) Paul prayed that even at peril he might finish his course of testimony with **JOY**! Paul was executed on the road to Ostium-but I believe rejoicing in Jesus! Acts 20.24
- (7)The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness and peace and **JOY** in the Holy Ghost. Romans 14.17
- (8) Now the God of hope fill you with all **JOY** and peace in believing that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Romans 15.13
- (9) But the fruit of the Spirit is love **JOY** peace longsuffering gentleness goodness faith meekness temperance Galatians 5 22-23
- (10) In the Philippian Epistle four times Paul speaks of **JOY**. Let me quote just once "I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith". These are words on the lips of a man in prison for the faith. Philippians 1.25 (cf also 1.4, 2.2, 4.1)
- (11) The Macedonian people received the word of the gospel with **JOY** 1Thessalonians 1.6 Again four times Paul speaks of the church joyfully (cf also 2.19, 20 and 3.9)
- (12) The Hebrew writer speaks of our glorious Saviour and Master as enduring the cross "for the **JOY** that was set before him" Hebrews 12.2
- (13) James says without stoicism "Count it all **JOY** when you fall into diverse trials" James 1.2
- (14) Peter speaks of "rejoicing with **JOY** unspeakable and full of glory" despite trials and because we have received the salvation of God.
- (15) John writes a letter late in the first century to keep **JOY** aflame in the church. "These things I write that your joy may be full" 1John 1.4 He also expresses his highest joy in the obedient walk of those he led to faith in Christ 3John 4

(16) Jude reminds us all that Christ "can keep us from falling" **and will present us without fault before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy** [αγαλλιασει -what the LXX terms "a transport of joy"]

CONCLUSION OF STUDY

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To the glory of the Lord
Aramaic Bible Companion