

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

March 4th

NATURAL MAN'S FAITH

[part 7 of 8]

* We do not need to seek the Holy Spirit, He has already been given. He is here.

Luke 11:13, "blow much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Notice, "your heavenly Father"; that is for a believer. That was not written for the Jews, for He was not the Jews' Heavenly Father. Gal. 3:2 "This only would I learn from you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the message of faith?" That settles the issue! But, you say, the disciples waited ten days. Yes, but they didn't know what they were waiting for. They didn't know that Christ had died for their sins according to the Scripture. They didn't know during those ten days why they were waiting in that Upper Room.

They didn't know anything about His Substitutionary Sacrifice. None of them believed in His resurrection, even when they saw Him after He arose. They knew nothing about what the three days and three nights meant to the human race. They didn't know what Jesus meant when He said they were to tarry and be baptized. They didn't know that baptism meant the New Birth. They didn't know anything about the indwelling of the Spirit that was to enable them to speak in tongues. They didn't understand it. 1 Cor. 12:13 "For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greek, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit." That is the New Birth.

Immersion doesn't mean a filling, for when I immerse one in water, I don't fill them with water. When they were immersed by the Holy Spirit in that Upper Room, they weren't filled with the Spirit until after the immersion. The question we should ask is the question that Paul asked the Ephesians, "Have ye received the

Holy Spirit since ye believed?" This is an intelligent question. When you ask a believer if he has received his baptism, and the believer is instructed in the Word, he will say, "Certainly, I have received Eternal Life. But if you mean, have I received the Holy Spirit, that is another question."