

Apostle John the Holy Ghost was not given until Jesus was glorified. (See John 7: 37-39) and at the time the Savior left His Apostles. (See Acts 1: 5). He told them, "For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

On the day of Pentecost they received this baptism, and after receiving the Holy Ghost, Peter and the eleven of the Apostles stood up, and Peter, as the oracle of God, preached unto them, and through his preaching the seeds of faith were sown and grew so rapidly that the people were pricked in their hearts, and with one voice cried out saying, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter answered by teaching them the everlasting Gospel John (called the Baptist) had heretofore taught, namely, Acts 2: 38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

By turning to the eighth chapter of Acts we again see the Spirit baptism coming after the water, and also find how it was conferred; Paul was at this time persecuting the Saints, but was afterwards converted and taught and practiced the same principles and ordinances. (See Heb. 6: 1, 2; also Acts 19: 1-6.)

In Galatians, 1: 8. Paul declares that should even an angel from heaven teach any other Gospel than the one he and the other brethren had preached, they should be accursed, and in the 12th verse of the same chapter declares that by the revelation of Jesus Christ was this Gospel taught unto him; thus it is plain, from a Bible standpoint, that the Savior taught the laying on of hands (after water baptism) for the bestowing of the Holy Ghost, because Paul was not taught it by man, neither did he receive it of man, but by the revelations of Jesus Christ.

The Lord may, as He sees fit, at any time, give manifestations of His power, may send angels to people like He did to Cornelius, or even cause people to receive the Holy Ghost before water baptism as this man and his household did; but never has the Lord, or any of His servants, ever promised to send an angel to every person before baptism; neither has our eternal Father, the Savior, or any of the Prophets, Apostles or servants of God, ever promised that unbaptized believers should receive the Holy Ghost; but to all who believe and obey the Lord, has this gift been promised.

JUNIUS J. TANNER.

THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE.

Elder C. G. Parker of Hooper, writing to his father-in-law, W. H. Naisbitt, of this city, from the Florida conference, thus expresses himself: "I am enjoying my labors very much, for the Lord has blessed me and His power has been made manifest in many ways, and I have been enabled to withstand all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Since January I have been traveling with Elder W. H. Summerhays of Salt Lake City, and St. John county, St. Augustine being the county seat, and as is said, the oldest city in the Union. It is a beautiful place of 5,000 inhabitants, the people of the county, as a rule are very kind and hospitable. During our seven weeks stay I have walked 325 miles, distributed 250 Gospel tracts, sold sixty Voices of Warning and fourteen Books of Mormon, besides holding 100 meetings and many Gospel conversations.

We have made a great many warm friends, and quite a number are earnestly investigating, "the harvest truly is great and the laborers few."

I appreciate your kindness in writing also your fatherly advice and counsel

all of which I eagerly perused, and shall be glad to hear from you as you have time.

The climate agrees with me wonderfully, as does my work, the thermometer has been from 28 to 85 in the shade all winter, I have had the privilege of visiting the beach and watching the waves play upon the sand. It was a grand sight to me, and I cannot describe my feelings nor my thoughts as those great waves broke upon the barrier of sand. I hope and pray that God will bless you and preserve your life until we meet again. With kind remembrance to all enquiring friends.

REPORT FROM ST. LOUIS.

3150 Locust Street, St. Louis,
February 28, 1898.

We have just closed a most successful and interesting conference. The Elders laboring in Southern Illinois and St. Louis have had an enjoyable and profitable time together. There were in attendance Pres. Louis A. Kelsch and Secretary J. E. Cardon of the Northern States mission, nineteen Elders laboring in this conference, besides Saints and friends. The sessions were held in Bowman's Hall, corner of 11th and Locust St., St. Louis, Mo., the first convening Saturday evening, Feb. 19, Conference President V. E. Candland presiding. After singing and prayer, Elder M. J. Ballard delivered a discourse on "The Apostasy and Restoration," dwelling particularly on the evidences which support the claim that the faith which Christ and His Apostles planted in the hearts of the primitive Saints was perverted, its laws transgressed and its ordinances changed by false teachers, and thus the authority was lost which God had delegated to man to administer in His name; this condition of affairs made a restoration of the Gospel necessary and the claims of the Latter-day Saints perfectly consistent.

Sunday, at 11 a.m., Elder Ezra Christiansen spoke on the "Origin and Destiny of Man," proving from the Scriptures that the spirit and an existence with the Father before tabernaculating in mortality, and that by rendering obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel in this life a more glorious existence await the faithful beyond the grave.

Sunday at 3 p.m., Elder M. M. Stookey addressed those present on the subject of "Primitive Christianity, making special reference to its fruits such as unity, love, spiritual gifts, etc. Elder E. S. Sheets followed with a few remarks on "Repentance."

Sunday, at 7:30 p.m., Elder J. E. Cardon spoke to a large congregation; showed the necessity of "new revelation," related some facts concerning the coming forth of the Book of Mormon; showed that its divine origin rested on such good evidences as Bible prophecy and the testimony of living witnesses. Elder Louis A. Kelsch followed on the same subject and bore a powerful testimony to the restoration of the Gospel.

Monday at 9 a. m. all the Elders met in Priesthood meeting where they were assigned new companions and fields of labor. Each one expressed himself as well satisfied with his assignment, and all seemed determined to do all in their power to spread the truth. President Kelsch gave much valuable advice and instruction with reference to the deportment and duties of the Elders. A most excellent spirit was manifested and all rejoiced that they were counted worthy to labor in God's vineyard for the salvation of His children.

At 3 p. m. the last session of the conference was held; the speakers were Elders D. A. Morris, W. E. Abbott and V. E. Candland; each gave good in-

struction and bore a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel.

Tuesday morning President Kelsch and Secretary Cardon left for Chicago, and four of the Elders also left for their fields of labor. The others remained another day to visit some of the places of interest in St. Louis. In the evening a most enjoyable time was spent at the home of one of our friends in this city. Fifteen Elders were present and several local Saints and acquaintances. The evening was passed in songs, recitations, Gospel conversations, etc. Cakes, ice cream, oranges, apples and grapes were served by our kind hostess. Just as the clock struck twelve our gathering was dismissed with prayer, and the Elders hid another good-bye and separated till our next conference.

Our brethren and sisters at home can hardly realize the pleasure we derive from these gatherings of the Elders every six months. We look forward to them with longing, and when the time comes our hearts are made glad, our faith is strengthened, our love for are bound together in ties of affection, stronger than steel and more enduring than time itself. A friend who attended our meeting on Sunday morning told us that he saw there a silent sermon more eloquent than words, viz: the hearty hand shakes of the Elders with one another. Says he: "I never saw anything like it in the church to which I belong—the spirit that produces such love for one another is lacking with us." Another who attended our meeting Monday afternoon said that such humility and such love as accompanied the testimony of the Elders he had never witnessed before. These statements are true. The lives that our missionaries live and their conduct before the world are living sermons. They need not utter a word, and yet there is power for good with them that impresses the people with whom they come in contact.

The work in St. Louis is progressing nicely. Just before conference we baptized three honest souls, who received a splendid testimony of the truth of the Gospel through earnest prayer. They manifested a faith that was truly remarkable. As a result of their devotion to the truth, God has blessed them with the manifestation of His Spirit to such an extent that their knowledge of the Gospel is greater and more powerful than that of many who have been members of the Church for years. The St. Louis branch of the Church numbers about eighteen members at present, and several more are earnestly investigating, and we hope to baptize some of them before long. Among these are some who have belonged to the so-called "Reorganized Church."

Our meetings, held in a large public hall every Sunday morning and evening, are well attended, and our testimonies are listened to with interest. Yesterday we opened a Sunday school with fifteen scholars present, and we hope to be able to reach some in this way that could not be got at in any other. The daily papers here have been very friendly toward us, publishing our notices, and commenting favorably on our labors. We desire especially to mention the St. Louis Republic. It has often published synopses of our sermons, sent reporters to interview us concerning our faith, and the labors that we were performing in the missionary line, and in every case it has been most considerate and kind toward us. We cannot praise it too highly. Our prospects for the future are bright and we trust by the blessings of God to do much good in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

Following are the Elders in this conference and their P. O. addresses:

V. E. Candland, M. J. Ballard, M. M. Stookey, Ezra Christiansen, 3150 Locust street, St. Louis, Mo.