

LESSON THREE

TOPEKA, KANSAS

A. BETHEL COLLEGE:

In 1898 in Topeka, Kansas, a young Holiness preacher, Charles F. Parham, established the Bethel Divine Healing Home. Parham was only twenty-five years old at that time.

Parham also published a paper, "The Apostolic Faith." He published this paper twice each month and for subscription he had "See Isaiah 55:1."

In the fall of 1900 Parham opened a Bible School known as Bethel College. He was able to secure a large elaborate mansion known as "Stone's Folly." This building had three stories and thirty rooms. It had an observatory tower, which became the prayer room.

There were forty students enrolled. The school was a faith school with all needs supplied in answer to prayer. There was no textbook except the Bible. The method of studying was simply that a certain subject was chosen. Then the Scriptures were searched to find out everything that the Bible had to say on the matter.

Finally the subject was reached regarding the Holy Spirit. The question was given: "What is the Bible evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost?"

Parham had left the school for a few days arriving back on the last day of 1900. About ten o'clock in the morning he called the students into the chapel to receive their report of what the Bible evidence was for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. To his surprise they all had the same conclusion to the subject under discussion. The Bible taught that the proof of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost was that "THEY SPOKE WITH OTHER TONGUES."

This meant that no one at Bethel College had been baptized with the Holy Ghost.

B. WATCHNIGHT SERVICE, DECEMBER 31, 1900:

In the watchnight service about 75 people beside the students had gathered making about 115 people in all. The watchnight service was especially blessed. A mighty spiritual power filled the entire school. Each heart was filled with hunger for the will of God to be done.

C. NEW YEARS, 1901:

Around eleven o'clock in the evening of January 1st one of the students, Sister Agnes N. Ozman, requested that hands be laid on her that she might receive the Holy Spirit since she was planning to go to the foreign field. Brother Parham hesitated since he had not received the Holy Ghost himself. Finally, in the Name of Jesus, he laid his hand on her head and prayed. He had prayed only a few sentences when a glory fell upon her. She lost her English, and with floods of joy and laughter she praised God in other languages. In her testimony she wrote, "It was as though rivers of living water were proceeding from my innermost being."

D. THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY PENTECOSTAL REVIVAL:

On the evening of January 3rd Brother Parham preached in the Free Methodist church in Topeka. Some of the students had remained at the Bible School to pray. God answered their prayers by pouring out His Spirit and one after another began speaking in tongues and some were given the interpretation.

When Brother Parham returned he found the room filled with a sheen of white light. Twelve ministers from different denominations were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke with other tongues. All at once they began to sing, "Jesus Lover of my Soul" in at least six different languages in beautiful harmony.

Brother Parham began to praise the Lord. God made it plain to him that he would have to stand for this great truth even through persecutions. A slight twist came to his throat, and he began to worship God in the Swedish tongue, which later changed to other languages.

Newspapers carried the news far and wide, and the Pentecostal revival of the twentieth century had begun. The special significance of this outpouring at Topeka was that this was the first known time of people seeking for the Holy Spirit with the expectation of speaking in tongues.

The speaking in tongues became the battleground. Is it the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost? The number who claimed that it was the Scriptural evidence rapidly grew and they became known as Pentecostals.

E. THE REVIVAL SPREADS TO GALENA, KANSAS:

Galena, Kansas, was a lead and zinc mining town. Here lived a prominent lady, Mrs. Mary Arthur, who was very ill. In 1903 she went to Eldorado Springs where she heard the message of Divine Healing. She was prayed for and received marvelous healing. Shortly afterwards she received the Holy Spirit.

In October 1903, a meeting was started in her home, but soon the crowds were so great that they moved to the Leader building on Main Street. This building seated 1,000 but could not take care of the crowds. The doors stood wide open since the crowds overflowed into the streets.

In this revival hundreds were converted, baptized, and healed. Many signs, wonders, and miracles took place in this revival. The meetings continued into the winter of 1904.

Among those converted in this revival was Howard A. Goss. On one of the coldest days of the winter Brother Parham baptized 100 converts in Spring River. Brother Goss was one of the hundred.

F. THE REVIVAL SPREADS TO TEXAS:

A group from Galena carried the Pentecostal truth to Texas where a Pentecostal revival broke out in Orchard. Orchard was a small town about forty-five miles from Houston.

In this revival nearly everyone in the entire town was converted.

At the close of a convention held in April 1906, a number traveled home on the same train. They were singing and praising God when in about an hour God had filled twelve people with the Holy Spirit. One of the twelve was Howard Goss who later became a leader in the Oneness Pentecostal movement.

LESSON THREE

SELF HELP TEST

A. Write an account of Bethel College, Topeka, Kansas, and the events that took place there one New Years, 1901.

B. Write an account of the Pentecostal revival that took place in Galena, Kansas, 1903 - 1904.

If you wish to obtain your AIS Bible and Theology Certificate or work toward your B.A. Degree from Indiana Bible College, complete this Self-Help Test as completely as possible and return it to: AIS, P.O. Box 47917 Indianapolis, IN 46247 or email it to: ais@apostolic.edu or fax it to: (317) 781-7700.