

an Indwelling Spirit is distinctly proclaimed, we must not wonder that, even where God gives His Spirit, He will be known and experienced only as the Spirit of regeneration. His Indwelling Presence will remain a mystery.¹

R. A. Redford, in his work, Vox Dei, asserts:

(comment on John 7:37-39): The reference is not to saving faith, which must always be the work of the Spirit, but to those endowments by which believers should be made "rivers of living water." Such endowments were not at that time poured out. They came on the day of Pentecost. Here, then, we have a very distinct enunciation by our Lord of an important doctrine in respect to the Spirit. His operation is twofold, that which quickens to new life and that which sends forth the new life on the world. . . . Confusion between these two operations of the Spirit has led many into error with regard to the Day of Pentecost. It has been and is maintained by some that the Day of Pentecost dates the commencement of the Church of Christ. It is only by a confusion between the commencement of spiritual life and the commencement of spiritual gifts that such a view can be supported. . . . Plainly, if the Holy Ghost was received by believers, it must have been not to believe, but to minister to others. Therefore there must have been a participation of the Spirit before the Day of Pentecost; and if there was the work of the Spirit, there was a Church, for the Church is the congregation of those who believe.²

(comment on John xx:21-23): It must also be remembered that those to whom the Lord spoke were already spiritually quickened; therefore He could not mean, as some have said, "become spiritual men."³

W. E. Biederwolf, in his widely-used Help to the Study of the Holy Spirit, states:

(comment on John 20:22-- "He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost"): We see in the passage in question an impartation of the Holy Spirit, not so full and complete as at Pentecost, but quantitative at least, an impartation already to regenerate men, or at least an impartation which effected that regeneration.⁴

¹Ibid., p. 19.

²R. A. Redford, Vox Dei (Cincinnati: Curtis & Jennings, n.d.), pp. 236-37.

³Ibid., p. 255.

⁴William Edward Biederwolf, A Help to the Study of the Holy Spirit, 4th ed. rev. (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1904), p. 77.