

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## The Day of Pentecost



And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat

upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.—*The Acts 2:1-4.*

Neophytes in the Western Wisdom School are taught in the first part of their training that their instruments, or bodies, must be cleansed, purified, and sensitized. As they are purified and made more efficient for spiritual purposes a beginning is made toward the goal of the union between the higher and lower self.

There are three steps by which the lower nature is conquered: overcoming the desire body, purification and control of the vital body, and spiritualization of the dense, physical body. These are not taken completely one after the other, as what affects one of the bodies also considerably affects the others. To a certain extent, then, we may say that the steps are taken at the same time, the first step at the present stage receiving the most attention, the second less, and the third least of all. In time, when the first step has been wholly taken, naturally more attention can be paid to the other two.

There are three helps given in attaining these three stages. They can be seen throughout the world, where the great Leaders of humanity have placed them: race religions, the Religion of the Son, and the Religion of the Father.

The first help, race religions, aid humanity to overcome the desire body, and thus prepare it for union with the Holy Spirit. The full operation of this help was seen on the Day of Pentecost. As the Holy Spirit is the Race God, all languages are expressions of it. That is why the apostles, when fully united and filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke with different tongues and were able to convince their hearers. They had transcended racial barriers. Their desire bodies had been sufficiently purified to bring about the wished-for union, and this is an earnest of what the aspirant will one day attain—the power to speak all tongues.

The race religions give commands for their people—certain things for them to do or not do. These are designed to conquer the lower desires and direct the desires into higher channels. Until man has reached the point where he is able to command himself from within to some degree, he must be directed from without, and that is exactly the purpose the race religions have served. They will be necessary until the peoples of the world attain such control of their desire bodies that they no longer need the outside guidance.

The Religion of the Son, the second help to mankind, was given to us nearly two thousand years ago by means of the Crucifixion, when Christ became the indwelling Planetary Spirit of the earth. His followers, consciously or unconsciously, are giving especial attention to the purification and control of the vital body, largely by means of *prayer*. Prayer has been given by the leaders of humanity as a special aid in taking a second step in conquering the lower nature, and it is therefore used freely by the sincere aspirant.