

2. Christians will be careful so to order their Sundays that other people shall not be deprived of the same opportunities for worship and rest as they desire to safeguard for themselves and their families. Transport and other workers should never be continuously employed on Sundays, and should have at least some Sundays free from work. Christians will ask for no labour from others save what is necessary for the general welfare.

3. Christians, although healthy recreations and amusements are not forbidden to them on Sundays, will not occupy themselves with pastimes at the expense of their religious duties and responsibilities. They will seek for opportunities of active Christian service on Sundays as on other days.

4. Christians, while defending Sunday as a day of rest and spiritual opportunity, will recognise that there are many people who live in circumstances which make change of air and scene on Sunday desirable for their welfare. Such people, if they are Christians, will be careful to make use on each Sunday of opportunities of worship.

5. Christians will also recognise their obligation to assist by their witness and influence the common cause of preserving Sunday from encroachment. For the sake of the nation's moral character and physical welfare they will oppose all enterprises which in the interests of commercial advantage or their own enjoyment would make Sunday like any other day in the week.

Christian public opinion should honour and support all those who at cost to themselves refuse to deviate from the principles herein set forth.

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The day of Pentecost, the 50th day after the Jewish Passover—a week of weeks—has become in the Christian Church Calendar—Whitsunday, and commemorates the coming into the church of the Holy Spirit, to be the abiding presence of its Founder, and the fulfilment of His promise. "I am with you to the end of the world."

It is sometimes called the Birthday of the Church, but as the Church really began with the calling of the twelve, it may be regarded as

the day of its second birth, "born of the Spirit." As Pentecost was the Harvest Festival of the Jews, it suggests the harvest of souls, that would result from the Spirit's out-pouring.

The Prayer Book has quite a lot to say about the Holy Spirit. Finding a place in all the Creeds, He is the Lord, the Giver of Life, He proceeds from the Father and from the Son, He is the Inspirer of the Old Testament Prophets. We are baptised into His name; we call upon Him in Confirmation and Ordination; our prayers end with "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, the fellowship of the Holy Ghost"; our praises end with "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost," and we depart from our worship with the Church's blessing "the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

But the Prayer Book makes no attempt to explain these phrases, and we find it very difficult to put into words what we understand by our belief in the third person of the Trinity.

Let us watch the Spirit in operation. Two features stand out, change or conversion, and power or inspiration. Consider Peter before and after the first Whitsunday. At first impulsive yet vacillating, bold yet fearful, confident yet unstable, "Thou art the Christ" yet "I know not the Man."

Can it be the same man we see presently preaching from the house-tops Christ crucified and risen, denouncing to their faces the Pharisees and Priests for having slain the Lord of Glory? Whence this change, and this power?

Consider Saul, Scholar of Gamaliel, Pharisee of the Pharisees, a persecutor of "that way," becoming Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles, labouring more abundantly than they all. Again, when this change, this power?

In search of Truth came Nicodemus to Jesus by night, to be told "You must be born again." But Nicodemus is old, conservative. How can a man be born, when he is old? How? When?

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, thou hearest the sound thereof but canst not tell when it cometh or whither it goeth; so is everyone that

is born of the Spirit."

So it is never too late, there are no limits to the Spirit's action, or to His power.

It is God's free gift to each and everyone of us, and there is only one condition, "Ask." "Ask and ye shall receive." There will be no rushing wind or tongues of fire, but there will be a changed outlook on life, a new set of values, a true conversion; and there will be power to live a new kind of life.

You send your boy to a great public school, and the older boys promptly "initiate" him. He is made to learn the records of bygone scholars, prizes, scholarships, sports trophies, the names of soldiers, sailors, statesmen, who have issued from its portals; and so from being self-centred, self-opinionated, self-satisfied, he becomes filled with the Spirit of the School, what the French so delightfully call *Esprit de corps*.

A soldier joins up into one of the famous regiments, and learns of the victories and scars, heroes and Victoria Crosses, gazes on the tattered remnants of a flag that has braved a thousand battles, and he too becomes filled with the Spirit of the Order.

And a man joins the Church. What does it mean to join the Church? To sing in the choir, take up the collection, sit on the Vestry? Let Paul meet you engaged on these tasks some Sunday, and his greeting is: "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you joined the Church?" An awkward question to answer, is it not?

Read the Life of its Founder. Read the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. Read the story of the struggle of the Church of the first three centuries against the Roman Empire. Read the history of the Holy Roman Empire in the Dark Ages, and of the gallant struggle for freedom put up by the Church of England during her long island story. Read the long roll of Saints and Martyrs, of heroes and missionaries. Look forward into the distant future, into the pictures of the Church Triumphant—"a vast multitude which no man can number." Then—try to realise into what a goodly Company you have entered when you joined the Church.