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Prayer meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham  
on Saturday evening 1st. July, 1972

Hymn 487

Reading Acts 1.4-14

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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS 72Q/PM

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These confirming words are of great importance, and can be for the comfort of the Lord's exercised people. We can feel sure they were actually facts, and record a promise which has been fulfilled. In verse 8 the Lord said to those disciples, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth". The point here is that there has been a fulfilment of this prediction in the gift of a Holy Ghost ministry in Gospel days, a living ministry. This has been in evidence more or less, and sometimes in a very striking way, from the day of Pentecost. There has been a divine authority in the preaching of the Gospel through the ages, because it is of the Lord's appointing. There has been living a great cloud of witnesses, and many faithful ministers of the blessed Gospel. Low as we are now, that is in a general aspect, yet we may believe that the Gospel will have a degree of authority in the preaching of it till time shall be no more.

Another point is that there is a living Jesus. Those favoured disciples saw Him go up towards heaven. What a wonderful sight it must have been, one they would never forget. "While they beheld, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight". When He comes again He will come with clouds and great majesty. What an amazing mercy it is for any of us here to feel in our souls an interest in "this same Jesus!" He will never fail us. Times may be dark, heavy clouds may threaten, hard things may come, but nothing can alter this truth, He is the same Jesus, the same blessed Intercessor in heaven interceding on behalf of His dear people. Troubles come, afflictions come, the end comes and will come to everything here, but no change will ever come to Him. The heavens may roll up as a scroll, the sun may lose its light and the moon be turned into blood, but He will still be the same Jesus.

And when all the ransomed host are gathered up into heaven as they will be in some future time, He will still be the same Jesus as the object of their adoration and praise and honour there, where many have already gone.

A third point consists in the fact that there was a praying people. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication". This has been so since those apostolic days and continues still, although under very changing conditions. On that occasion it is said that they continued "with one accord". They were not at sixes and sevens, some thinking one thing and some another; they continued with one accord. Their hearts and voices went up to that same Jesus Whom they had seen and loved, and in Whom their hope and love still continued. So may we be helped, in our humble way, by His grace, to continue with one accord in prayer and supplication.

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