



Children in Pentecost

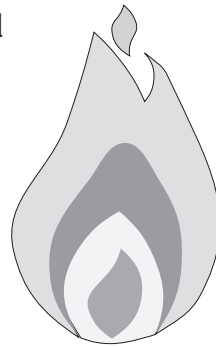
by Thomas E. Trask

One of the most beautiful sights of the church is to see children tarrying for and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues. Recently my nine-year-old grandson, Michael, was attending Kid's Council at General Council in Denver, Colorado. In one of the night services, Michael received his baptism. After the service that night, he couldn't wait to tell my wife and me of his experience. We were thrilled for him. What better age for a person to receive this experience than when they are tender, open, hungry, and receptive.

Not only does the Scripture state in Acts 1:8, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you," but that is a promise. And for children to have that power in them, for a lifetime as they stay full of the Holy Spirit, is very important.

Children come to accept this simply by asking. They do not have all the questions, doubts, and fears adults have, thus they receive so much

easier. Let me urge children's pastors across this great Fellowship to encourage children to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It will make a world of difference in their lives. It will give them a better under-



standing of the working of the Spirit in their hearts.

The title of this article is "Children in Pentecost," however, something better is Pentecost in children. This Holy Spirit is a Person of the Godhead filling them, abiding in them, and thus, in turn, using them.

Once a person has moved from only knowing about the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a doctrine to having experienced it, in most cases, the questions are taken care of. The Scripture in Joel states this outpouring of the Holy Spirit would take place upon all flesh and that our sons and our daughters (and grandchildren!) would be used in the gifts of the Spirit. May we as a church be careful never to minimize the importance of and the encouraging of children to receive this glorious infilling of the Holy Spirit. May we as adults in the Assemblies of God pray earnestly that this baptism of the Holy Spirit will be for the next generation, should the Lord tarry.

Questions for Further Study—

1. How can you as a leader encourage all the spiritual gifts to operate within your ministry?
2. In what ways have the lives of the children who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit changed?