

## IV. The Holy Spirit and the Charismata

## A. The Nature of the discussion.

1. A fair amount of background is needed before coming to the actual charismata material. This comes from the fact that the whole nature of the charismatic gift discussion is closely related to our spiritual position in Christ. The greatest claims for them are made by persons who professedly are attempting to give us a deeper life and a fuller appreciation of and for the work of grace. Since this is such high sounding motivation, one cannot simply turn it aside. So a fuller observation of the particulars is necessary.

In this regard it is important to remember what was said in our initial lesson...the matter of our note in Colossians 2 that we are complete in Christ and we must be careful that no one deceives us, tricks us, or takes from us the joy that comes in knowing him. I suggest that the methods of doing these things are often concealed from the casual observer and one must be a very active student to not be misled...unless he is willing to abide very simply in Christ.

2. The Basic need and desire of man...when he is spiritually alerted, is redemption. Without it he has nothing else. I use this term rather than regeneration since I think that is merely one step in the redemptive process. The concepts of redemption being met by Christ in his ministry are very apparent as in the following passages from Luke... which not only speak of him but also speak of the need of men:

Luke 2:38

Luke 4:18

Luke 19:10

3. In His day, the work of redemption was accomplished directly by the Lord Jesus. From his own body he could say: "Thy faith hath saved thee." The need men felt in their hearts could be met...and an exact pronouncement given by the Lord himself. Thus we say that in his earthly ministry he showed the nature of the redemptive grace and how it would be achieved.
4. The ultimate phase in redemption is something for which we now groan (Romans 8:23), the redemption of the body...the point where the whole man will be set free from the limitations and bindings of this life. It is remarkable to see that this second phase of redemption, so to speak, will also be accomplished by the presence of the Lord Jesus as he will return and be with us in that day...including both his initial coming and the eventual coming to rule the earth. Therefore both phases of the redemptive work are associated with the Lord and with his being present with us.