17 -- DIVISION -- CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAINTS -- (AUG. 24-NOV. 7)

 24. Whom when Aquilla and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. -- Acts 18:26.

 Holy people show their interest in holiness and in the Church and in the ministry by their affectionate private exposition of Christian perfection to such ministers as are eloquent, mighty in the Scriptures, instructed in the way of the Lord, fervent in spirit, speaking and teaching diligently the things of the Lord -- yet who know only the baptism of John.

 25. I rather glory in my infirmities (weaknesses), that the power of Christ may rest upon me. -- II Corinthians 12:9.

 The saintly idea of "power," is weakness in themselves, with divine power made perfect in their weakness, and taking pleasure in this arrangement of being "powerful weak."

 26. Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall he witnesses unto me. -- Acts 1:8.

 They witness to Christ's salvation to the uttermost wrought in themselves by the Holy Ghost coming upon them in Pentecostal power.

 27. I am sure that when I come unto you I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. -- Romans 15:29.

 Wholly sanctified ministerial or lay workers are sure they enjoy the full gospel blessing, and carry it with them wherever they go. It is not confidence in self, but in a divinely-wrought experience and ministry.

 28. God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. -- II Timothy 1:7.

 The bravery, the effectiveness, the love, and the sound mind of heart-purity, is God's gift.

 29. My judgment is just, because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father. -- John 5:30.

 Self-will perverts the judgment. Just judgment can only come from preference above all things for God's will. This the entirely sanctified have.

 30. Ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto . . . wherein the Lord thy God hath blessed thee. -- Deuteronomy 12:7.

 No matter how menial, no matter how hard, if God's blessing be in it, the holy soul rejoices in the minutest details of daily toil and reward.

 31. Whoso keepeth his word in him verily is the love of God perfected.-- John 2:5.

 He who enjoys perfect love is a thorough Bible Christian -- walking even as Christ walked (v.6).

\* \* \*

SEPTEMBER

 1. The words of the pure are pleasant words. -- Proverbs 15:26.

 Purity does not require unpleasant speech -- no matter how truthful and faithful the words may be.

 2. Peter . . . lifted up his voice -- Acts 1:14.

 Under the baptism of the Holy Ghost, from the lips that had cowardly denied his Master, now poured forth that brave and masterly and Scriptural Pentecostal sermon that swept in 3000 souls.

 3. They saw the boldness of Peter and John. -- Acts 4:13.

 The Pentecostal baptism of purity and power brings holy boldness.

 4. We ought to obey God rather than man -- Acts 5:29.

 Obedience to God is supreme and overriding in all holy hearts.

 5. Rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. -- Acts 5:41.

 Not whining -- not complaining -- not scolding -- not threatening -- but rejoicing -- this is the spirit of those who are baptized with the holy Ghost when beaten (v.40).

 6. I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die. -- Acts 21:13.

 Broken hearts, being bound, nor death itself, can deter holy souls from facing danger.

 7. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. -- Galatians 5:22, 23.

 Not only love, but long-suffering -- not only joy, but gentleness -- not only peace, but the death of pride -- not only goodness, but fidelity and temperance -- this whole crop of rich and ripe fruit grows out of the fullness of the Spirit.

 8. They had all things common. -- Acts 4:32.

 The place was shaken. They were filled with the Holy Ghost. They were of one heart and soul. They claimed nothing as their own. They sold out. They distributed their possessions till none lacked, but had all they needed.

 9. They, continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. -- Acts 2:46,47.

 No wonder such gladness and simplicity brought daily accessions of saved souls into the Church. It always works that way under the fullness of the Holy Ghost.

 10. Be filled with the Spirit. -- Ephesians 5:18.

 Intoxication with the Holy Ghost -- not a fullness of intoxicating spirit, but of the Holy Spirit. Thence comes holy conversation. Thence comes heart and lip and life melody into the Lord (v. 19). Thence comes ceaseless gratitude to God for all things (v. 20).

 11. He that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. -- Psalm 101: 6.

 Wise Christian rulers and employers will prefer perfect walkers. None need be anxious to serve rulers and employers who prefer walkers in crooked ways.

 12. They had all things common. -- Acts 4:32.

 The place was shaken. They were filled with the Holy Ghost. They were of one heart and soul. They claimed nothing as their own. They sold out. They distributed their possessions till none lacked, but had all they needed.

 9. They, continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. -- Acts 2:46,47.

 No wonder such gladness and simplicity brought daily accessions of saved souls into the Church. It always works that way under the fullness of the Holy Ghost.

 10. Be filled with the Spirit. -- Ephesians 5:18.

 Intoxication with the Holy Ghost -- not a fullness of intoxicating spirit, but of the Holy Spirit. Thence comes holy conversation. Thence comes heart and lip and life melody unto the Lord (v.19). Thence comes ceaseless gratitude to God for all things (v.20).

 11. He that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. -- Psalm 101:6.

 Wise Christian rulers and employers will prefer perfect walkers. None need be anxious to serve rulers and employers who prefer walkers in crooked ways.

 12. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth . . . and in their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault before the throne of God. -- Revelation 14:4, 5.

 Imitation of Christ, association with Christ and trust in his atonement bring guilelessness here and faultlessness in heaven.

 13. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God. -- Galatians 2:20.

 Crucified with Christ -- raised into newness of spiritual life -- Christ indwelling -- all by faith.

 14. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? . .. The temple of God is holy. -- I Corinthians 3:16, 17.

 That the Holy Ghost dwells in us as his holy temples is a matter of personal consciousness. Shall we do anything to defile those temples?

 15. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak . . . as the Spirit gave them utterance. -- Acts 2:4.

 Spirit-filled immediately brings Spirit-speech. The Spirit casts out "the dumb devil." Testimony is one of the very first results of every Pentecost.

 16. When thine eye is single thy whole body also is full of light. -- Luke 11:34.

 One of the very best characteristics of entire sanctification is "the single eye" -- single to the glory of God. It lights up the soul, the body, the life -- full of light -- having no part dark.

 17. The Comforter which is the Holy Ghost . . . shalt bring all things to your remembrance. -- John 14:26.

 The influence of the Holy Ghost in teaching and comforting his saints through precious memories is a subject well worth studying up, and an experience well worth always having as our own.

 18. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. . . . We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. -- II Corinthians 3:17,18.

 This singular spiritual liberty is the privilege of those who, while beholding God's glory, are changed into his image from glory to glory. Beholding -- changed -- free -- glorious.

 19. He that is spiritual judgeth (discerneth) all things, yet he himself is judged (discerned) of no man. I Corinthians 2:15 and margin.

 Spiritual discernment of doctrine, of duty, of privilege, of experience, of men and things, is a wonderful gift of God. It is the foundation of excellent judgment. He who has it not can neither discern nor judge those who have. This will explain many mistakes made by unspiritual people concerning those who are deeply spiritual.

 20. The spirit of wisdom and revelation. -- Ephesians 1:17.

 For the marvelous effects of this endowment we ask you to read carefully and prayerfully the context from the fifteenth to the twenty-third verses. One effect of it is a singular enlightenment of the understanding. Out of this comes knowledge, wisdom, revelation on four points: (1) the Triune Godhead (v. 17); (2) the holy calling (v. 18); (3) the glorious riches of the saintly inheritance (v. 18), and (4) the exceeding greatness of divine power toward us (v.19). We know that the very same power that raised Christ from the dead, set him at God's right hand, and put all things under His feet, raises us also from spiritual death, places us in divine security, and gives us perpetual victory (vs. 20 and 22).

 21. The anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you. -- I John 2:27.

 This abiding anointing so saves us from merely human teaching into truthful divine teaching on all spiritual matters that it causes us to abide in God.

 22. That ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. -- Colossians 1:9.

 The results of this filling -- as shown in the context -- are: (1) a walk worthy of God; (2) pleasing him in all things (not pleasing all people); (3) fruitfulness in every good work; (4) increasing in the knowledge of God, and (5) patient, long-suffering, joyful endurance.

 23. We speak wisdom among them that are perfect. -- I Corinthians 2:6.

 It is a privilege to sit at the feet of the perfect to listen and learn; it is a greater privilege to be qualified to take part in the talk; it is the greatest privilege to teach and preach among the perfect. It is not always human learning, but rather divine wisdom that inspires our speech.

 24. That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. -- Colossians 1:28.

 Preaching, warning, teaching, laboring according to the mighty inward divine working, to present every man perfect. What a ministry is this! Do you put on the pressure toward the personal perfection of God's people? Every truly saintly minister does.

 25. Above all these things put on Charity. -- Colossians 3:14.

 The context tells what "these things" are. They are a bundle of the very sweetest graces of a kindly nature. Around the bundle draw the cord of love to bind them all together.

 26. Herein is our love made perfect . . . 8 as he is, so are we in this world. -- John 4:17.

 Perfect love is Christlikeness. Such an experience and life can be ours "in this world."

 27. First pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. -- James 3:17.

 What a rich fruitage grows from heavenly wisdom! What a world -- what a church -- would be ours that were filled with such wisdom. It can be had for the asking (James 1:5).

 23. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. -- Proverbs 3:5.

 Such whole-souled trust in God that he will direct our paths relieves us of the necessity of leaning on our own understanding and brings us to acknowledge him in all our ways. Perfect trust, perfect love, perfect peace, perfect providence, perfect protection and perfect guidance are inseparable.

 29. Here am I: send me. -- Isaiah 6:8.

 That is the prompt and cheerful and brave way in which lips that have been purged from all iniquity by the live coal off the divine altar respond to God's call for service.

 30. He shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, meet for the Master's use and prepared unto every good work. -- II Timothy 2:21.

 These are the effects of a purifying separation from all unclean vessels -- honor, purity, fitness and perpetual preparation for divine service and work.

\* \* \*

OCTOBER

 1. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly perfected unto all good works. -- II Timothy 3:17.

 Personal perfection -- scriptural perfection -- is the only condition of spirit and soul and body that can thoroughly furnish or perfect anybody unto all good works. Perfect -- perfected. Perfect in experience -- perfect in work.

 2. God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all-sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. -- II Corinthians 9:8.

 Abounding work resulting from abounding grace. Always -- all-sufficiency -- in all things -- to every good work. Could anybody ask for a more abounding promise?

 3. I am ready, not to be bound only, but also to die . . . for the name of the Lord Jesus. -- Acts 21:13.

 Martyr-like courage is a characteristic of the Pentecostal fullness of the Spirit.

 4. Our conversation is in heaven. -- Philippians 3:20.

 Heavenly living! Heavenly speech! Heavenly-mindedness! Heaven begun below! A heaven to go to heaven in!

 5. We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey, and this is the fruit of it. --Numbers 13:27.

 Milk! Honey! Fruits! A charming description of the Land of Perfect Love Richness! Sweetness! Ripeness!

 6. As for the pure, his work is right. -- Proverbs 21:8.

 Right works spring from pure hearts and pure motives.

 7. I in them and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one. -- John 17:23.

 The same unity between perfect men and women that exists between the Father and the Son. This divine union is the perfection of our sanctified human nature. The indwelling Father and Son makes possible the perfect union of God's children and Christ's brothers and sisters.

 8. Blessed are the undefiled in the way. -- Psalm 119:1.

 Who can describe the blessedness of an undefiled heart and life? And he who is blessed with a pure conscience, a pure motive, a pure purpose, a pure soul and a pure walk is an indescribable blessing to others.

 9. Seeing ye have purified your souls . . . unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. -- I Peter 1:22.

 Purity of heart produces unfeigned and fervent love of the brethren. There is no cord that binds hearts together as closely, as unfeignedly, as fervently, as perfect love. Yet, although this is the effect of entire sanctification, we must "see" to it that our perfect love has its full proof. Every grace of the Spirit needs careful cultivation.

 10. They shall return unto me with their whole heart. -- Jeremiah 24:7.

 Whole-heartedness may be lost. It may also be regained. Knowledge and loyalty (see the rest of this verse) is God's gift, to be accepted by us, to prompt us to return to whole-souled service.

 11. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man. -- James 3:2.

 Nothing more conclusively demonstrates any man's perfection than inoffensiveness in words. "Out of the abundance of a good heart the mouth speaketh." Preaching and profession of perfect love may be neutralized by offensive language. Blessing and cursing cannot consistently proceed out of the same mouth. "The words of the pure are pleasant words" (Proverbs 15:26).

 12. Strong meat belongeth unto them that are of full age. -- Hebrews 5:14.

 Whether we drink milk or eat strong meat is a sign of whether we are religious babies or men. He that can digest strong meat has reached full age. What kind of a spiritual diet do you prefer? Do you delight in the very strongest spiritual and Scriptural diet?

 13. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled. -- Matthew 5:6.

 There is a blessedness even in the hungering and thirsting, but how much more in the being filled! No man regrets a good appetite when he is sitting down at a well filled table.

 14. That he might sanctify and cleanse it ... present to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. -- Ephesians 5:26, 27.

 All spots, wrinkles, blemishes and every such thing removed. Sanctified, cleansed, holy, glorious. These are characteristics of the true church -- individually and collectively.

 15. With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure. Psalm 18:26. God suits His administration (see context) exactly to our disposition, experience and conduct -- even to the two opposite extremes of mercy and forwardness. Human purity secures divine purity in return.

 16. Mark the perfect man . . . for the end of that man is peace. -- Psalm 37:37.

 How can we mark a perfect man if there is none to mark? The most solemn hour is death. The perfection and peace that wilt bear marking then, must be real, substantial, eternal.

 17. Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. -- Matthew 5:8.

 Here by faith -- hereafter by sight. "We endure as seeing him who is invisible." Pure faith lends its realizing light to the present vision of God. The pure see God in everything and everything in God.

 18. But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereunto he went. -- Numbers 14:24.

 The same brave and loyal spirit will cause God to bring anybody into the Holy Land.

 19. The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way. -- Proverbs 11:5.

 His will is righteous, his motives are righteous, his plans are righteous, his heart is righteous, his way is righteous. He says at his home and everywhere, "I will walk . . . with a perfect heart. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way" (Psalm 101:2).

 20. A glorious Church not having ... wrinkle. -- Ephesians 5:27.

 When a garment is washed, then the wrinkles are ironed out. When our souls are washed, then the wrinkling and curling up in our dispositions are ironed out -- so that we are spotless and smooth.

 21. Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed . . . that ye may prove what is that . . . perfect will of God. -- Romans 12:2.

 Some illustrious manifestations of our transformation into harmony with God's perfect will are, "love without dissimulation " (v. 9); "in honor preferring one another" (v. 10); "in love fulfilling the law by working no ill to its neighbor" (13:10) "in making no provisions for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof" (13:14).

 22. He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do. -- John 14:12.

 Exactly what works and how much greater must be determined by a Scriptural and venturesome faith.

 23. He shall give you another Comforter. -- John 14:16.

 This Comforter is abiding (v. 16), can only be received by believers (v. 17), teaches us all things and quickens our memories on all Christ-like essentials (V. 26), testifies of Christ (15:26), and guides us into all truth (16:13) His mission to unbelievers is one of reproof (16:8-11).

 24. In that day ye shall ask me nothing . . . ye shall receive that your joy may be full. -- John 16:23, 24.

 This is a Pentecostal promise. We are living in the dispensation of the fullness of the Spirit when God will deny us no Scriptural blessing, but will grant us fullness of joy. What an encouragement to ask and to receive to the full!

 25. Pure religion and undefiled . . . is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. -- James 1:27.

 Spotlessness and sympathy. Not a mere sentiment of sympathy, but active in good works.

 26. Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein . . . this man shall be blessed in his deed. -- James 1:25.

 Not forgetting, but continually doing what he sees in the perfect law of liberty -- his deeds shall be blessed. There is no liberty under anarchy. All real liberty is under law. God's law is the perfect law of liberty. Obedience to it brings the highest freedom and the choicest divine blessings.

 27. Every one that is perfect shall he as his Master. -- Luke 6:40.

 "As he is, so are we in this world" -- Christ-like, pure, perfect.

 28. Behold an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile. -- John 1:47 Guiltless is a wonderful thing. Guileless is far more wonderful. Only the difference of one letter -- but how much that difference means! What a musical word is guileless! For what a charming experience and life it stands! Guiltless means pardoned -- guileless means purified.

 29. In that day, ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. -- John 16:23.

 Oh, the marvelous possibilities of Pentecostal prayer! Baptized with the Holy Ghost -- filled with the Spirit -- what correct and successful petitions will he offered by holy souls and -- granted

 30. I pray not that then shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. -- John 17:15.

 This is to be done by sanctifying them through his word, which is truth (v. 17). Christ sanctified himself that we might be sanctified (v. 19). Sanctified souls stay in this world to show how saints can be preserved in such a world.

 31. The Lord added daily to the Church such as should be saved. -- Acts 2:47.

 The Pentecostal baptism reaches the masses, brings them to Christ, identifies them with his church, and is the only secret of complete religious and ecclesiastical success.

\* \* \*

NOVEMBER

 1. Filled with the Holy Ghost. -- Acts 4:8.

 This was Peter's third sermon delivered when he was filled with the Holy Ghost. Under that influence all his sermons were marvels of Scriptural experience, of fearless fidelity, of the keenest truth, of the most convicting and converting and sanctifying power. His sermons should be studied as models of Pentecostal preaching.

 2. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. -- Acts 6:5.

 That is the way the primitive Pentecostal Christian church constituted its "official board" and appointed its "stewards." They took men full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. There would be more power and greater wonders and miracles done nowadays if the same sort of men were elected to official position (v. 8).

 3. All . . . saw his face as it had been an angel. -- Acts 6:15.

 This was the seraphic Stephen -- full of faith, of power, and of the Holy Ghost. Dr. Keen often spoke of "that strange light" that comes upon the face of saintly souls.

 4. They stoned Stephen . . . . Lord Jesus, receive my spirit . . .. Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. -- Acts 7:59, 60.

 In his martyrdom he couples with prayer for his own spirit, a Christ-like forgiveness of injuries that prayed for his foes. Pentecost is the source of the Stephanic spirit.

 5. What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. -- Acts 10:15.

 Peter was about equally filled with purity and prejudice. Some of us -- even holiness people -- are liable to fall into the same snare of misjudging those whom God has cleansed. Under such charges as "fanaticism," etc., we may deny the real work of God in a human soul. Purity reaches its highest power when it cleanses our hearts from unfounded prejudices as well as unfounded partialities. Purity ought to recognize purity in others.

 6. Yet show I unto you a more excellent way. -- I Corinthians 12:31.

 This is St. Paul's introduction to the Thirteenth Chapter of First Corinthians. After having discussed spiritual gifts he leads us on to the excellence of perfect love. Gifts are safe with perfect love, but dangerous to ourselves and others without it. He subordinates all kinds of gifts -- even gifts of healing -- to the grace of perfect love.

 7. God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. -- Hebrews 11:40.

 This links the perfection of the Old Testament with that of the new. One is a complement to the other. The old was sublimely brave in perfect faith: what should the new be?

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*