PARACLETOS, OR THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

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Paracletos, or the Baptism of the Holy Ghost by Sherlock Bristol

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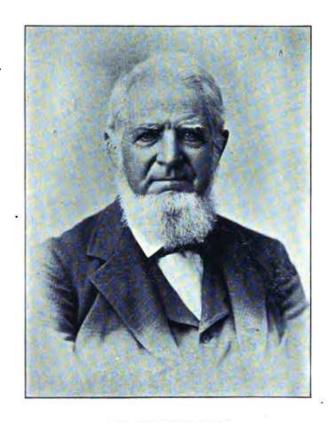
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SHERLOCK BRISTOL

PARACLETOS, OR THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST





REV. SHERLOCK BRISTOL.

PARACLETOS,

OF

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST.

BY

REV. SHERLOCK BRISTOL,

AUTHOR OF

"The Pioneer Preacher."



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DEDICATION

To a class of persons, found in all our Churches, who hunger and thirst after righteousness and who sigh after greater fruitfulness in the Lord's service, this volume is affectionately dedicated.

Sherlock Bristol.

Ventura, California, January 1, 1893.

495

CONTENTS.

						- 63	P	AGE.
PREFA	CE		20	1				5
INTROI	DUCTION.		883	:	٠	2.4	9*	9
CHAPTI	ER.							
I.	Paraclete	os Defi	ned.		0 0	.00	3. *	17
Ir.	The Wor	k of th	e Hol	y Spiri	it und	er the	Mo-	
	sai	c Dispe	ensatio	n.	2.0		¥3:	22
ш.	His Wor	k unde	r that	of Me	essiah.		5 0	23
IV.	The Pent	tecosta	l Bapt	ism, ar	a Obje	ot Les	son.	29
٧.	The Prop	nised l	Baptist	n, not	limite	d to I	ров-	
	tol	ic Time	es.	en e				34
VI.	The Pers	onal B	lessing	gs it In	nparte			52
VII.	The Help	it giv	es in C	hristie	m Wor	k.		77
VIII.	Condition	ns of i	ts Best	owal.		6 99	, i	87
IX.	Counteri	eits an	d How	Detec	ted.	28		105
X.	How Ret	ained a	and Ho	w Lo	st.	360	(8 . 0)	111
XI.	The Att	Itude	the V	arious	s Org	apizat	ions	
	Ta	ke Wit	h Refe	rence	to It.	20		116
XII.	Testimor	ies of	Emin	ent Ch	ristiat	18.		146
XIII.	The Per	onaiit	y and	Divin	ity of	the l	Holy	
	Spi	rit.		40	÷.	90		156
XIV.	Final Wo	rds W	th Ea	rnest 8	Seeker	8.		170
A PR	VER.				0 5		20	182

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PREFACE.

It is said that "All works of fiction are founded upon facts." We believe this is true, especially of those which possess real merit. Their most valuable thoughts, cluster around experiences and observations of the writers-which produced profound impressions, and prompted the production of their books. Nor is this true of works of fiction alone; more than half the books in our libraries had a similar origin. Could we but know the Genesis, and follow step by step to the final Revelation, how much additional interest it would add to the reading and to the profit of the book! Possibly, the reader of the following pages will ask for the motive which has induced the writer in his advanced age to weary himself with the writing of a book on this topic, with its attendant expense, criticism and care. It may be as well here as elsewhere in the book to give the reasons.

1. A promise made to the Lord—many years ago
—when in deep spiritual trouble, that if the Lord
would deliver him, would take his feet from the
mirey clay, set them on a rock, and establish his goings. If he would deliver him from the power of
besetting sins and put the song of permanent victory

in his mouth, then he would testify to others, the power and grace of the Great Deliverer, and do his utmost to induce them to apply to him for similar relief.

- 2. The study of the Scriptures has convinced him, that there is a power of the Holy Spirit held in reserve for Christians, far beyond that usually bestowed in conversion, and indispensible to victory over sin and to their highest usefulness. And that for this "I will be inquired by the House of Israel to do it for them—saith the Lord."
- 3. Gratitude to God for the delightful experiences of the past fifty years, and the path growing brighter and brighter toward the perfect day, prompts to this final offering of a grateful heart. May the Glorious Giver accept it, small though it be, like a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons.
- 4. Another reason for the writing of this book, is the desire to call back the Church of God, from its dependence upon its colleges, its seminaries, its eloquent ministers, its learned Doctors, its Sabbath Schools, Missionary Societies, and what not; to dependence on the Holy Spirit, as the power to be sought first, midst, and last, and without which all other agencies are but broken reeds! The writer believes there has been a fearful departure in these latter days from this primal and

most important fact of the Christian system. In the biographical sketches of the late Rev. Chas. Spurgeon -while the writers have dwelt upon his sterling common sense, his mother wit, his natural talent for public speaking, his eloquence, his marvelous voice, and his skill as an organizer and leader of men, &c., they have scarcely alluded to the power of the Holy Ghost, which rested on him, as on Peter, when he presched in the Pentecostal revival! Alas! Alas! that the power which wrought all his works in him, as he himself was so prompt to confess, shou d have been left out, ignored, forgotten! Did he not, if told of this in Hesven, ask to be allowed to rush back to earth, and protest in the name of the Lord, against a praise so sacrilegious and so misplaced? In Peter and Paul's day, they would have said. "He being full of the Holy Ghost so spake, that great numbers both of men and of women turned to the Lord." "For he was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and much people were added unto the Lord."

5. A final cause for the presentation to the Christian public of this great matter, has been the belief of the writer that he was prompted thereto by the Holy Spirit. The vast importance of the subject matter will be conceded by all. But who is sufficient to