

**A Pleading Prayer to the Holy Ghost**  
**By**  
**A. J. Tomlinson (Annual Address 1923)**

“God was with Moses and directed the church in the wilderness. Jesus was with the apostles in the beginning of the gospel dispensation and started them out in the right way. But now we have the Holy Ghost to guide and direct us and to illuminate the sacred pages of our Law-book [Bible]. He must have the pre-eminence. He must be recognized and honored in all our services and deliberations. Put Him out and we have nothing but machinery and buildings left. But we want to so conduct ourselves that He will be pleased to remain with us.

O, Thou heavenly dove, Thou hast been thrust aside and grieved-but we have been grieved too. Wilt Thou accept the place in our midst as instructor, guide and ruler according to all the divine plan of our Father God? We want Thee to have due honor, and, if Thou wilt only quicken us to service, we here and now renew our pledge of faithfulness to Thee. We want Thy presence; we want Thy wisdom to be displayed among us; we want Thy power to be demonstrated. We do not want our faith to become attached to human wisdom, but we want it anchored to the power of God-Thou, the blessed Holy Ghost. O Thy sacred presence is here. How our souls are delighted with Thee. Please never leave us again. If others do not want Thee, we want Thee to always know that Thou art welcome here. We want Thee to feel free to move about amongst us as Thou seest best for our good and the glory of Jesus, whom Thou camest to exalt and glorify. O heavenly, heavenly Dove, we want to speak good to Thee, we want to speak good of Thee always. We want Thee to direct this campaign that is to go down in history as a last days Church revolution. We know it will go right if Thou hast control. We will not be deceived by spies who may come into our midst. We will not be deceived by traitors who may be among us, for we depend upon Thee. O, Thou Holy One from on high, preserve and keep us for we are not able to keep ourselves without Thee. We will continue to look to Thee; we depend upon Thee at all times.”

Reference: Thirteenth Annual Address 1923 – *Historical Annual Addresses*, Volume 1, pages 219-220, White Wing Publishing House & Press, Cleveland, TN, 1970.

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