

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Passage:

Acts 1:4-8 HCSB While He was together with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. "This," *He said, "is what* you heard from Me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (6) So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, at this time are You restoring the kingdom to Israel?" (7) He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:1-21 HCSB When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. (3) And tongues, like flames of fire that were divided, appeared to them and rested on each one of them. (4) Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them ability for speech. (5) There were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. (6) When this sound occurred, the multitude came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. (7) And they were astounded and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? (8) How is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? (9) Parthians, Medes, Elamites; those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, (10) Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, (11) Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own languages the magnificent acts of God." (12) And they were all astounded and perplexed, saying to one another, "What could this be?" (13) But some sneered and said, "They're full of new wine!" (14) But Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them: "Jewish men and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and pay attention to my words. (15) For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it's only nine in the morning. (16) On the contrary, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: (17) And it will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. (18) I will even pour out My Spirit on My male and female slaves in those days, and they will prophesy. (19) I will display wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below: blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. (20) The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and remarkable day of the Lord comes; (21) then whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

This passage contains one of the most essential yet, controversial and misunderstood events in scripture.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit has been misinterpreted, avoided and ignored or viewed as something for some but not for all.

In the early church, this Baptism was an inseparable part of who they were and the driving power behind all they did.

New Believers were spurred on to seek the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and to not stop until it happened.

If we are to be the church God intends us to be, we must be people Baptized in the Holy Spirit. We must be people of Pentecost.

False Interpretations of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit :

A) Perfectionism

1) Legalistic Bondage (Appearance)

- a) Standards of Dress
 - i) Examples:
 - † Women must not cut their hair.
 - † Women must not wear pants.
 - † Women must not wear make-up(Funny how many of the standards often apply only to women)
- b) Standards of Behavior
 - i) Examples:
 - † No movies
 - † No Rock Music

2) Moralistic Bondage (Actions)

- a) Putting confidence in righteous acts.
 - i) Striving to be sinless.
 - ii) Trying instead of trusting.
- b) Self righteousness.
 - i) Thinking that my good works will earn God's favor.
 - ii) My righteousness is as filthy rags to God.

B) Emotionalism

1) Revival Movements

- a) physical displays
 - i) Examples:
 - † Shouting
 - † Running
 - † Dancing
 - ii) None of these are signs of a holy life.

2) Charismatic Movements

- a) Speaking in tongues does not mean a person is holy.
 - i) I've had friends would talk about cussing someone out and in the next breath brag about going to church and speaking in tongues.
 - ii) ***1 Corinthians 13:1, "If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal."***

C) Other Mistakes in the Doctrine of Holiness:

1) You get it all at once. (Baptist)

2) Once sanctified, always sanctified. (Wesleyan, Nazarene)

- a) Sanctification is a process:
 - i) It begins at regeneration.
 - ii) It is completed when Christ returns.

The Biblical Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

It is an event.

- ◆ It happens in a moment.
- ◆ It is not something a person grows into.

It is the fulfillment of the Promise of God.

- ◆ This is the reason for the crucifixion.
- ◆ The blood of Christ prepares us to be the temple of God.

- In the OT, the blood was applied to the altar to prepare it for the sacrifice.
- The Blood and the sacrifice were separate.
- Romans 12:1 implores us to present our selves as “living sacrifices.” The only thing that makes this possible is the blood of Christ.

It is when God takes ownership and possession of His temple.

- ◆ The Filling of the Holy Spirit happens repeatedly.

The Sign and Product of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Power (Greek: “dunamis” from where we get the word “dynamite”)

To obey

- **Philippians 2:13 HCSB** *For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to will and to act for His good purpose.*
- **Quote:** Augustine – *“It is one thing to seek the will of God, it is another to have your will and His will so interwoven that you can no longer tell them apart.”*

To witness

- **2 Corinthians 5:18-20 HCSB** (18) Now everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: (19) that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

To minister

- The problem with the church today is that we are trying to reach the world with out the power to do so.
- The disciples were not allowed to do anything until they had received the promised power.

Freedom - 2 Corinthians 3:17 HCSB (17) *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

† From bondage

† From sin

- **Romans 6:11-14 HCSB** *So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (12) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. (13) And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. (14) For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under law but under grace.*

† From Satan – *He has no claim on us.*

Fruit

- † **Galatians 5:22-23 HCSB** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

How does it happen?

Luke 11:5-13 HCSB He also said to them: "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, (6) because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I don't have anything to offer him.' (7) Then he will answer from inside and say, 'Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I have gone to

bed. I can't get up to give you anything.' (8) I tell you, even though he won't get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs. (9) "So I say to you, keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you. (10) For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (11) What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? (12) Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? (13) If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Desire

We must be hungry for it.

We have to be convinced that we are not sufficient.

- ◆ You must be ready and willing to receive it.

Surrender

Romans 12:1

- ◆ This means you are willing to no longer belong to yourself.
- ◆ You are willing to throw yourself on God in total dependence for salvation and power to obey.
- ◆ You must submit to Him and rely on Him to do what needs to be done.
- ◆ In the OT when the sacrifice was presented, the sign that it was received by God was that the fire of God would fall and consume the sacrifice.
- ◆ The same fire, God will send to those who present themselves as a living sacrifice.

Ask

We ask because we are hungry.

We ask God because He is the source.

Believe

Our desperation for Him must combine with our faith in His promise and His ability and desire to fulfill that promise.

Wait

We ask and believe until it happens.

Luke 11:9, "So I say to you, keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

Luke 24:49, "And behold, I will send forth upon you what My Father has promised; but remain in the city [Jerusalem] **until** you are clothed with power from on high."(Amplified)

Receive

"You will receive..." Receive literally means "to take" or "to lay hold of."

ILLUSTRATION: DL Moody and the tumbler

In one of his meetings, D.L. Moody was explaining to his audience the truth that we cannot bring about spiritual changes in our lives by our own strength. He demonstrated the principal like this: "Tell me," he said to his audience, "how can I get the air out of the tumbler I have in my hand?" One man said, "Suck it out with a pump." But Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter it." Finally after many suggestions, he picked up a pitcher and quietly filled the glass with water. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then explained that victory for the child of God does not come by working hard to eliminate sinful habits, but rather by allowing Christ to take full possession....