

## **Week 14 - Healing Through the Word - The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

A parenthetical interlude this week:

Many times, during this class I have referred to the baptism in or with the Holy Spirit, but only briefly addressed it. I believe that as you are all called to be ministers, to do the work of the ministry, it would be a good thing to thoroughly examine what the Bible instructs us about it at the very least.

Some people diminish this whole topic believing that they have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit when they were water baptized or at salvation, and that's possible – but where is the evidence of the power and an initial evidence?

Some people go off the rails simply stating, “tongues are of the devil” and thereby just dismiss all talk about the baptism with Spirit. “I’m not listening!”

Of the foundational, of the elementary principles of the doctrine of Christ listed in **Hebrews 6:1,2**, that we are told incorporate and to move on from, and build upon, is “*the doctrine of baptisms*,” plural. Though an elementary principle, many know incredibly little about the plural. We will run into another elementary, foundational principle of the doctrine of Christ a bit later – there’re 6 of them.

John the Baptist made a distinction and clearly separated water baptism from the baptism in or with the Holy Spirit and fire, though they can occur simultaneously – they are distinct. As we look at the expanse of this, please again remember the establishment of a thing out of the mouths of two or three witnesses, here regarding the baptism with the Holy Spirit:

**Matthew 3:11** *“<sup>11</sup> I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

**Mark 1:7, 8** *“<sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, ‘There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. <sup>8</sup> I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’”*

**Luke 3:16** *“<sup>16</sup> John answered, saying to all, ‘I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’”*

If that’s not enough, the words of Christ confirm this:

**John 7:38, 39** <sup>38</sup> “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart (KJV- out of his belly) will flow rivers of living water.’ <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

But what about???

**John 20:21** “<sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’”.

Post resurrection Christ breathed on the disciples to **receive** the Holy Spirit, but Scripture chronologically proves this **not** to be the baptism with the Holy Spirit as He had not yet been glorified. Remember He told Mary not to cling to Him for He had not yet ascended. As the first born from the dead, this is likely their baptism into Christ, by the **indwelling** of the Spirit. Again, we will see Jesus refer to the promise of the Spirit that would occur later, on the day of Pentecost:

Immediately before His ascension, 40 days after His resurrection, Christ Who is the baptizer, (Remember “He will baptize you...” in the synoptic gospels.), commanded His disciples to wait for the “Promise of the Father.” This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit with power, power to be witnesses, with all that power includes. Again, consider this, that chronologically, the **Acts 1** account is after **John 20:21** when the disciples received the Holy Spirit.

Before we get into the book of Acts, lets see how it opens:

**Acts 1:1** – “The former account I made (the gospel of **Luke**), O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach...” Theophilus means “lover of God,” and the statement that Jesus began this, directs, and compels us to finish what He began. This is the premise of the entire book of **The Acts of the Apostles**.

**Acts 1:4, 5, 8** “<sup>4</sup> And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to ‘wait for the **Promise of the Father**,’ which, He said, ‘you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. <sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’”

**Verse 9** “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”- Proves that this was part of the

last words of Christ, the last things Christ directed right before His ascension while **John 20:21** was spoken on resurrection day – two completely different times & events, receiving the Spirit and the Baptism with the Spirit.

Three days in the grave since His death on Passover and 40 days on the earth He ascended into heaven and then 7 days later – a total of 50 days after Passover, came Pentecost and the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

*Acts 2:1-4* “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and (they) **began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**”

Being in one accord and I’m not talking about being in a Honda, is critically essential to the Holy Spirit moving, to seeing and experiencing the power of God. I believe too that this “one accord” is why you see such miraculous things at crusades. Everybody who comes to one generally is on the same page and wants the same things. The **133<sup>rd</sup> Psalm** declares that unity between brethren is the place where the Lord commands the blessing.

To better understand the power of the Spirit and the power of the baptism with the Spirit, remember Peter denying Christ and then consider him here in **Acts 2** – two completely, totally, different people because of the baptism with the Spirit. Once a liar and cowardly, now bold, and fearless. Peter received the power. As we will see later as Paul asked the Ephesians in **Acts 19**, I now ask you, “Have you received the Holy Spirit?” Have you received the Holy Spirit?

**Acts 2** not only fulfilled John the Baptist’s prophesy but also Christ’s own words, and before that, the Prophet Joel’s quoted here by Peter from **Joel 2:28-32**.

*“<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. <sup>15</sup> For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only <sup>[e]</sup>the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel’:*

*<sup>17</sup> ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,  
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your young men shall see visions,*

*Your old men shall dream dreams.*

*<sup>18</sup> And on My menservants and on My maidservants*

*I will pour out My Spirit in those days;*

*And they shall prophesy.*

*<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in heaven above*

*And signs in the earth beneath:*

*Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.*

*<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness,*

*And the moon into blood,*

*Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.*

*<sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass*

*That whoever calls on the name of the Lord*

*Shall be saved.’”*

This will continue up to, “*before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.*”

More than 2 or 3 witnesses - This day of Pentecost was also foretold by Isaiah:

***Isaiah 28:10-12***, “*For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.’ <sup>11</sup> For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, <sup>12</sup> To whom He said, ‘This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,’ And, This is the refreshing’; Yet they would not hear.*” 2700 years later and still people won’t hear.

This baptism in or with the Holy Spirit was not just for that one day for just those assembled at that time, but it is a Promise of the Father to all generations:

***Acts 2:38, 39*** “<sup>38</sup> *Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”*

So, tell me where and how this ended? Moving through Acts -

In Samaria the people came to salvation through Philip the deacon’s ministry, they received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and then the apostles came down and the Samaritans received the baptism in the Holy Spirit – distinctly separate events. Simon the sorcerer saw or heard something that informed him that the Holy Spirit had been received by the believers:

*Acts 8:12-17* “12 But when they (whom the Jews considered half breeds - Samaritans) believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’”

One way, but not the only way, to receive the baptism in the Spirit is laying on of hands. (Remember **Hebrews 6:1, 2** – This is another elementary principle of the doctrine of Christ.)

Salvation, belief in Christ always precedes water baptism and the baptism with the Spirit. Water baptism and the baptism with the Spirit may occur at the same time or either one before the other, but always after salvation, the baptism into Christ.

Philip then catches a flight out:

*Acts 8:35-37* “<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup> Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’

<sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’

And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’”

The eunuch believed first, and then received water baptism.

We see that Paul came to salvation, then was baptized with the Holy Spirit and then thirdly, received water baptism as a sign:

*Acts 9:17, 18* “<sup>17</sup> And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with

*the Holy Spirit.’<sup>18</sup> Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.”*

Later, in instruction concerning the spiritual gift of tongues that require interpretation and ecstatic utterances/praying in tongues, Paul wrote, “*I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.*” – **1 Corinthians 14:18**. This makes it all hard to overlook or deny.

### **And to the Gentiles:**

Peter went to Cornelius’ house and preached Jesus; they believed and received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and we see the Jews with Peter that there was evidence of this. Faith and then evidence of faith:

***Acts 10:44-48*** “*44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*

*Then Peter answered,<sup>47</sup> ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.”* Here they received the baptism in the Spirit before being water baptized.

Believers in Ephesus had not even heard of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, so Paul laid hands on them and Jesus who is the baptizer, baptized them in the Holy Spirit and again, evidence following:

***Acts 19:1-5*** “*And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples<sup>2</sup> he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’*

*So they said to him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’*

<sup>3</sup> *And he said to them, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’*

*So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’*

<sup>4</sup> *Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’*

<sup>5</sup> *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.* <sup>6</sup> ***And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.***

Seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit and in faith believe for nothing less than your Promise of the Father for yourself – power, power to be a witness unto Christ.

Now, the initial evidence of tongues, *Acts 2* tells us that “***they spoke***” and the “***Spirit gave them utterance.***” The Holy Spirit will give you the utterance all you must do is yield and speak.

Remember that this is not the gift of the Spirit of tongues which requires interpretation – *1 Corinthians 12*.