

~ACTS~

Lesson 5- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We are continuing our study through the book of Acts, and we have finally come to the long-awaited Day of Pentecost, **Acts 2:1-4**.

Day of Pentecost and being filled with the Holy Spirit is undoubtedly the Day that Jesus was speaking of in Acts 1:4-5 when He said “*you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*”

The disciples didn’t know exactly when the Holy Spirit would come, they only had the promise from Jesus when He said to wait for the Promise of the Father that would come not many days from now. As we said last week, the disciples came back to the upper room fired up and ready to do the work of Jesus. Remember in Acts 1:14 Luke says, *προσκαρτεροῦντες ὁμοθυμαδόν*, “they continued with one accord.” or a more thorough translation would be, “they continued enduring patiently with a similar strong passion of like-mindedness.” There is an intense unity of fervent passion among them. And in this fervent passion they remained faithful, and they eagerly waited on the Lord for the Promise. I think that is a lesson we can learn as we are eagerly waiting for the Promise of the Lord’s return, Luke 12:35-36; Mark 13:34-37; Heb 9:28.

This is what the disciples are doing in the upper room... eagerly waiting for the Spirit. Let’s read verse 1 again...

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. | ¹ Καὶ ἐν τῷ συμπληροῦσθαι τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς πεντηκοστῆς, ἦσαν ἅπαντες ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό.

“**When the Day of Pentecost had fully come**” The Day of Pentecost literally means the 50th Day. This was the Jewish Feast of Weeks that was celebrated 7 weeks from the Feast of Firstfruits, plus one day always placing this Day on a Sunday, **Leviticus 23:15-17**. In Exodus 23:16, this Day is also called the Feast of Harvest. On this feast, the Jews were commanded to present an offering of new grain to the Lord by baking two loaves of bread with leaven from the firstfruit of the harvest and waving them before the Lord. The two loaves are significant because this symbolizes the Jews and the Gentiles coming into One Body. But notice that this bread has leaven in it, which symbolizes sin. And as we all know, the Church isn’t perfect, Jesus is the only One who is perfect.

This grain offering was done 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits. Remember the Feast of Firstfruits signified the first of more to come. Now, 50 days later, the harvest has come. These three holidays perfectly foreshadow Jesus Christ. Jesus died on Passover, and He is our Passover, 1 Cor 5:7. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, Jn 1:29. Three days later He was risen from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits, and Paul says Jesus is our Firstfruit, 1 Cor 15:20-23, signifying the Firstfruit of more to come. And that more to come is you and me in the body of Christ. And now 50 days later, the harvest of that more to come is fulfilled in the sending of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

Another parallel to the Day of Pentecost is that Jewish tradition tells us that the Law was given to Moses on the Day of Pentecost, which was 50 days after the Exodus, Exodus 19:1. And with this thinking, remember when Moses came down from Mount Sinai, after being on the mount for 40 days receiving the Law from God, and he found the children of Israel worshipping a golden calf and on that day 3,000 people died, Ex 32:28. And in contrast to this, on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, when the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus was given, 3,000 came to life, Acts 2:41. In 2 Cor 3:6, Paul says “*the Letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*” This Day of Pentecost was sovereignly appointed by God, before the foundation of the world to be the Day when the Church was empowered with the Spirit of God.

This event on the Day of Pentecost, the giving of the Holy Spirit, is monumental in the formation of the Church and had been something anticipated from the time of the Prophets, Isaiah 32:15; 44:3-4; Ezek 36:26-27; 39:29; Joel 2:28-29; Zech 12:10. And Jesus continued to remind the Apostles of this Promise even up to the final day of His ascension, Luke 11:13; John 7:37-39; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:12-14; Acts 1:4-5, 8.

“...they were all with one accord in one place” Luke uses this word, ὁμοθυμαδὸν, “with one accord.” This is the same word Luke uses to describe the 120 who were all in the upper room 10 days earlier in Acts 1:14. They were all with a similar strong passion of like-mindedness, and they were waiting for the Promise of the Father. And while they are eagerly waiting, the Holy Spirit comes... look at verse 2...

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

2 καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἦχος ὡσεὶ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι,

3 καὶ ὠφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλῶσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός, ἐκάθισέ τε ἐφ’ ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν.

When the Holy Spirit came into this world, it was like an explosion which Luke describes as “...a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind...” This sound came out from heaven. The Greek says, ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, out from heaven. The Holy Spirit came down out from heaven to dwell on the earth within every believer. This wasn’t actual wind, it was “as of” a rushing mighty wind, but Luke is doing his best to explain this loud sound. Today, we might say it sounded like a freight train, or jet airplane or a hurricane. When God comes to the earth, it is awesome. Remember when God came down on top of Mount Sinai, which was also on the Day of Pentecost. It was so loud, the people trembled, Exodus 19:16-19. This same type of thing is happening in the upper room. But this sound is so loud that all the people in Jerusalem heard this, and they gather around to see what just happened, Acts 1:5-6.

“...and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.” The sound was heard all over Jerusalem, but the presence of God filled the room where the disciples were.

“**3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.**” The presence of God appeared visibly to the disciples as divided tongues of fire. This wasn’t actual fire, but probably much like the fire of the burning bush. This fire was a sign from heaven to show that the Holy Spirit had arrived. That what they were waiting for had come. Remember in Matthew 3:11 John the Baptist prophesied about this Day and said, “*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.*”

The fire of God is a symbol for judgement and purification. Fire will either purge or punish. And this fire that comes upon the disciples is a sign of the convicting and purifying work of the Word of God through the Holy Spirit. Jesus explains this convicting work of the Spirit in John 16:8–11. When the Word of God is preached, there is a conviction. The primary mission of the Holy Spirit is to bear witness of THE Word, Jesus Christ, and He does this through us, the body of Christ, His ambassadors. And it is by this Word that is proclaimed that everyone will be judged, John 12:48; Jeremiah 5:14; 2 Tim 3:16. This fire represents the fire of the Word through the power of the Holy Spirit given to each of us to proclaim the Gospel, 2 Corinthians 2:15–16.

The Holy Spirit has descended upon each of them and now look at verse 4...

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

4 καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες Πνεύματος Ἁγίου, καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἐτέραις γλώσσαις, καθὼς τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐδίδου αὐτοῖς ἀποφθέγγεσθαι.

“**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...**” This “filling” is the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus said would come in Acts 1:5- “*you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*”

When we studied Acts 1:5 a few weeks ago, I purposely didn’t expand on what it means to be baptized with the Holy Spirit because I wanted to wait until this lesson to begin talking about the infilling of the Holy Spirit. There are four statements relating to the giving of the Holy Spirit that we see in the beginning of Acts that all have the same meaning, 1) Acts 1:4- “but wait for **the promise of the Father,**”... 2) Acts 1:5 “but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit,**”... 3) Acts 1:8- “but you shall receive power when the **Holy Spirit has come upon you,**”... 4) Acts 2:4- “they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit.**” These are all different statements that refer to this same event, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So, what does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit?

Now before we answer that... I want to point out that these discussions are things that Christians have been debating for 2,000 years. You can ask 10 Christians in a room and get 15 different answers, but this should never cause divisions. These topics are things that should never separate our fellowship. The essential core beliefs that unite us is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God that came in the flesh to die for us as Propitiation for our sins, and He has risen from the dead for our justification to give us eternal life in Him. Those are the essential core beliefs that unite us into one body, but these other discussions, although very important, should never divide us, but allow us to grow in Jesus Christ as we discuss these things. There are many denominational interpretations of this text, but my goal is to show you the Truth from the Word of God. We must set denominations aside. Get rid of religious tradition and focus on what the Bible says.

When discussing the Holy Spirit, I believe the right approach is balance. God does everything in perfect order and usually you see people get things wrong when they start taking things to the extreme. For instance, when speaking of spiritual gifts, there are those hyper-charismatics that bring poison and snakes with them to church. And then there are those on the other end, the cessationists, who believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased. I personally believe the right viewpoint Biblically is somewhere in the middle. It's a balance of things done decently and in order, 1 Cor 14:40. I know and believe Mark 16:17 that signs will follow them that believe, and yet we have to remember it is always as He wills, 1 Cor 12:11.

What does it mean to be baptized in the Holy Spirit? The word baptize, as a verb is baptizo, βαπτίζω, or as a noun is baptisma, βάπτισμα. It means to be immersed. So to be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be totally immersed in the Holy Spirit.

Here are just a few questions that start to come up when we start thinking about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. First, is being baptized in the Holy Spirit, the same as being born again? Does one need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit to be saved? When you become saved, are you automatically baptized with the Holy Spirit? If I don't speak in tongues, does this mean I don't have the Holy Spirit, or worse does this mean I am not saved? These are some of the questions that when asked, you get 15 different answers. And the reason why there are disagreements with these questions is because many times people don't have a thorough understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in Salvation.

There are two major concepts regarding the Holy Spirit and His function concerning our Salvation that can help guide us into Truth. The first is that the Holy Spirit's primary objective is to bear witness of Jesus Christ. It's not about us, it's always about Jesus. If you overlay that concept on anything concerning the Holy Spirit, that really helps put things in perspective. When people start to get hyper-charismatic, you can ask one simple question, does this glorify Jesus or is it glorifying me? And the other major help is understanding how the Holy Spirit functions in each stage of Salvation. Remember, our Salvation is made up of three different parts: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. I am saved, I am being saved, and I will be saved. And the Holy Spirit is active in all three of these stages and when people mix these up, it can cause confusion.

The Holy Spirit's role in Justification- We can only be born again by the Holy Spirit. Justification happens when we are born of the Spirit, **John 3:5-8; 1 Cor 12:12-13; Romans 8:14-16; Eph 1:13-14**. On the day of Jesus' resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples, and He breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit, **20:22**. This wasn't the filling of the Spirit or being baptized in the Spirit, but I believe this is when the Apostles were born again.

The Holy Spirit's role in Sanctification- The infilling of the Spirit is directly related to our Sanctification and our being separated to do the work of the Lord. Just as I said earlier, the fire of the Holy Spirit will purify our soul and set us apart from sin, **2 Thess 2:13-14; 1 Peter 1:22; Rom 8:13**. This is being sanctified by the Truth and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and we are led into Sanctification by being led of the Spirit, **John 17:15-17; Gal 5:16**. And we are led of the Spirit when we yield ourselves to Him and are filled with His power.

The Holy Spirit's role in Glorification- And finally, our Glorification comes through the Holy Spirit because it is the Spirit that transforms us into Glory, **2 Cor 3:18**. And our being transformed into His glory is being one with Him for all eternity. It is receiving our glorified body, but it is also so much more than that. It is being made one with

Him, being like Him in perfect Righteousness and Holiness and purity forever, 1 John 3:2-3; John 17:21-26, 1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Peter 1:2-11; Romans 5:1-6; 8:12-25.

There are good teachers that say there is no additional filling of the Spirit. They say that when a person is born again, that's when they receive and are baptized into the Holy Spirit. But Scripture is very clear that being immersed or filled with the Spirit is something in addition to Justification, and it always follows our faith in Jesus Christ. In some cases, it follows immediately, but in other cases, the baptism of the Holy Spirit happens later. Let's take a look at some examples in the book of Acts starting with Cornelius, **Acts 10:43-48**; another example is Paul's conversion and baptism, **Acts 9:1-12**. It was sometime in these 3 days that Paul was born again and trusted in Jesus as the Christ. Then we see Paul filled with the Holy Spirit **Acts 9:13-18**; a third example is when the gospel goes to Samaria, **Acts 8:12-17**; one more example is found in **Acts 19:1-6**.

The Day of Pentecost is the beginning of the Church. We could say that it is the birthday of the Church. This is when the Church was empowered with the Holy Spirit and endowed with the ability of God to preach the Gospel. This is the supernatural ability to perform the Great Commission and to be effectual witnesses of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the power of the Word of God that brings life to those who receive it. And the proof of this is on the Day the Holy Spirit was given, the Word of God was preached, and 3,000 people believed and were saved. And shortly after, another 5,000 believed, and Luke says in Acts 2:47 that the Lord added to the Church daily. So the Church exploded after Pentecost because each person, individually, was empowered and filled with the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit was moving on all who heard the Word of God.

This is Christianity, this is Fellowship with God. And this filling isn't just a one-time event. It's a continual filling as we walk in the Spirit. It is inviting Him into your life, yielding to Him, seeking Him, yearning for Him. Luke 11:9-10. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is allowing the Holy Spirit to immerse you in His goodness. If you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is already living inside you, the next step is yielding your life and will to Him, allowing Him to come and fill you up with His power. Jesus says, "how much more will your Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." Luke 11:13. All you have to do is ask Him and He will fill you with His Spirit. We, as Christians, have been born of the Spirit and His Seed is abiding in us, but in order for that Seed to grow into Christ-likeness, we must allow the Holy Spirit to anoint us with His teaching, feed and nurture that Seed with His Word, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into all Truth, 1 John 2:20, 27.

It is the infilling that fills us with His dunamis power so that we can be witnesses of the risen Christ and grow in Him. And when we do this, the gifts of the Spirit will naturally come forth through us as rivers of living water, Jn 7:37-39. So this is what we will talk about next time when we continue verse 4 with the disciples speaking in tongues.