

Holy Spirit Power

April 1st, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

We've felt for some time now that teaching is needed regarding the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We know it will bless you, your life will be enriched in a powerful way.

Acts 1:1-8 in the Amplified Bible says this; *"The first account I made, Theophilus, was [a continuous report] about all the things that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day when He ascended to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given instruction to the apostles (special messengers) whom He had chosen. To these [men] He also showed Himself alive after His suffering [in Gethsemane and on the cross], by [a series of] many infallible proofs and unquestionable demonstrations, appearing to them over a period of forty days and talking to them about the things concerning the kingdom of God. While being together and eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Of which," He said, "you have heard Me speak. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized and empowered and united with the Holy Spirit, not long from now." So when they had come together, they asked Him repeatedly, "Lord, are You at this time reestablishing the kingdom and restoring it to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."*

Jesus physically, in flesh and blood, walked the land of Israel for 40 days after his resurrection teaching on the kingdom of God. His nail scarred hands, feet and pierced side were probably evident to many besides his 12 disciples. One of the commands that he gave them as he was preparing to return to heaven, is that they must stay in Jerusalem and wait for a special promised gift that the Father was going to send them.

Matthew Henry's Commentary says this regarding this verse.

"III. He appoints them their work, and with authority assures them of an ability to go on with it, and of success in it. "It is not for you to know the times and the seasons—this would do you no good; but know this (Acts 1:8) that you shall receive a spiritual power, by the descent of the Holy Ghost upon you, and shall not receive it in vain, for you shall be witnesses unto me and my glory; and your testimony shall not be in vain, for it shall be received here in Jerusalem, in the country about, and all the world over," Acts 1:8. If Christ make us serviceable to his honour in our own day and generation, let this be enough for us, and let not us perplex ourselves about times and seasons to come. Christ here tells them,

1. That their work should be honourable and glorious: You shall be witnesses unto me. (1.) They shall proclaim him king, and publish those truths to the world by which his kingdom should be set up, and he would rule. They must openly and solemnly preach his gospel to the world. (2.) They shall prove this, shall confirm their testimony, not as witnesses do, with an oath, but with the divine seal of miracles and supernatural gifts: You shall be martyrs to me, or my martyrs, as some copies read it; for they attested the truth of the gospel with their sufferings, even unto death.

2. That their power for this work should be sufficient. They had not strength of their own for it, nor wisdom nor courage enough; they were naturally of the weak and foolish things of the world; they durst not appear as witnesses for Christ upon his trial, neither as yet were they able. "But you shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you" (so it may be read), "shall be animated and actuated by a better spirit than your own; you shall have power to preach the gospel, and to prove it out of the scriptures of the Old Testament" (which, when they were filled with the Holy Ghost, they did to admiration, Acts 18:28), "and to confirm it both by miracles and by sufferings." Note, Christ's witnesses shall receive power for that work to which he calls them; those whom he employs in his service he will qualify for it, and will bear them out in it.

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3. *That their influence should be great and very extensive: "You shall be witnesses for Christ, and shall carry his cause," (1.) "In Jerusalem; there you must begin, and many there will receive your testimony; and those that do not will be left inexcusable." (2.) "Your light shall thence shine throughout all Judea, where before you have laboured in vain." (3.) "Thence you shall proceed to Samaria, though at your first mission you were forbidden to preach in any of the cities of the Samaritans." (4.) "Your usefulness shall reach to the uttermost part of the earth, and you shall be blessings to the whole world."*

We must remember that earlier on in Jesus' ministry, he had sent the 70 disciples out and they returned with attesting miracles, signs, wonders, casting out demons, with the power of the Holy Spirit being evident, yet with all of this, they still all fled at the crucifixion, didn't they. It shows that they didn't have the power to stand the persecution.

Let's read **Acts 1:9-14** where Jesus ascends to heaven; *"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."*

We continue to read in **Acts 2:1-4** where the promised Holy Spirit comes where it says; *"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

You'd think that they were already filled with the Holy Spirit since they had already operated in signs, wonders, miracles, casting out demons and the demonstration of the power of God, right. They could have easily said that they had the Holy Spirit already because of all that they had already done through the Holy Spirit. Think about that for a minute. But there was something missing amidst all of this because they couldn't stand to the end with him. They were born again and saved through the Holy Spirit, but had not yet received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking on tongues.

Some teach that being filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit happens when we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Saviour, becoming born again spiritually after praying a prayer of repentance and receiving Jesus the Holy Spirit into our body to become the temple of the Holy Spirit. We'll show you though that there is a separate baptism and endowment of the Holy Spirit and that is what they received at Pentecost.

2 Corinthians 5:17; *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* So, with the disciples, they were new creations in Jesus, the old had passed and the new had come. Jesus had breathed on them already to receive the Holy Spirit in John 20:22.

When your born again, you receive eternal life, our spirit is recreated by God in our inner man making us a new creature. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a secondary experience for the Christian and cannot be received by the worldly unbeliever. We read this in **John 14:15-18**; *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth,*

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whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

The world or non-Christians, can receive salvation through confession of their faith in Jesus Christ, but they cannot receive the Holy Spirit until they are born again. Only born again Christians can be filled with the Holy Spirit, which only occurs after salvation. On the day of Pentecost after the believers received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Peter says in **Acts 2:32-33**; *"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."*

The crowds were mocking and in confusion when they heard and saw what had happened, as many thought they were drunk. Yet they heard these 120 disciples were speaking in languages or tongues which they did not know personally. However, the multitudes understood, because they had gathered in Jerusalem from around the world for the celebration of Pentecost or the Feast of Firstfruits which was a national festival, and they heard the declarations and revelations of God in their own languages as 120 disciples spoke in tongues.

As the disciples grew in number and started evangelizing and traveling, God leads Philip to preach in the city of Samaria. We read here in **Acts 8:5-8** what happens; *"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city."*

We see this city was in a revival from Philips preaching and we see the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. We continue in **Acts 8:12-17** *"But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 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."* Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

As I said before with the disciples, it would seem that these Samaritans too, who had already been baptized in the name of Jesus, had already received the baptism in the Holy Spirit because of all the attesting miracles right. Apparently not because Peter and John preached to the converts of Philips ministry and they are then filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues like it was on the Day of Pentecost. The Samaritans were saved before visited by Peter and John and then receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It's very important to distinguish between the two.

The Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost, and he is here now, and does not have to be sent again by God. He is here right now to receive, wherever you are, without having to tarry again like the 120 in the upper room. The tarrying happened for the first disciples from when Jesus ascended to heaven until the Day of Pentecost. This was for the first disciples which Jesus commanded them to do. We don't need to tarry any longer for days or years! Holy Spirit is here right now.

I'd like to re-read **Acts 8:6-8** because there is a clear delineation here; *"And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city."*

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Philip preached salvation and followed up with miracles and healings, but this is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit which they received later when Peter and John preached to them.

Even Simon the Sorcerer who experienced salvation and saw the healings and miracles in Philip's ministry, wanted to purchase the power to lay hands on people that they would receive the Holy Spirit which he witnessed thru Peter and John's ministry. What he witnessed, was different that what he had witnessed through Philip's ministry right. He probably saw and felt the power of the Holy Spirit and heard them speaking in tongues. Why, because up until them, none of these Christians were speaking in tongues as on the day of Pentecost, but all the other signs, wonders and miracles were already very visible and in action.

We will re-read this again in **Acts 8:14-20** and also Simon's demise; "*Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!"*"

Peter and John were endowed to lay hands on believers to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as was experienced by the Samaritan believers. It doesn't say that Simon heard them speak in other tongues, but keep in mind that he had already witnessed the gift of salvation, healings, the casting out of devils, miracles but it obviously did not compare to the what he witnessed when believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Again, we know from reading Acts 2:1-4 that the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. "*...Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*"

In many Pentecostal and Charismatic churches, past and present, it's taught that you need to wait and tarry to receive the Holy Spirit. So, the question today is to wait or not wait for the Holy Spirit? If waiting is the only way to receive the Holy Spirit, then why are we omitting the latter part of **Luke 24:49**; "*but tarry in the city of Jerusalem [until you are endued with power from on high.*" If this is the case, then you would have to fulfill the latter part of this scripture to be literally correct, and tarry in Jerusalem in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. But it's obviously not the case, otherwise you would have to be in JERUSALEM to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1 says; "*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...*" Waiting and tarrying for the Holy Spirit ended when the day of Pentecost came. Nowhere in the scriptures after this day do you find disciples waiting to be filled with Holy Spirit (endowed with power from on high), because the Holy Spirit already came at the Day of Pentecost. After Pentecost, the disciples of Christ in the early church received the Holy Spirit right away, without having to wait.

If the gift of the Holy Spirit is free, why would you have to work for it by waiting for it? The same Holy Spirit endowment of power that was on the Day of Pentecost is the same Spirit that is here right now, nothing has changed except some Pentecostal circles have got Christians back into a works orientated mindset about how to receive the free Gift of the Holy Spirit.

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Let's read Acts 1:4-8 again; *"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; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 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."*

These are the last instructions of our Lord to his disciples. Are you a Disciple of Christ? If so, then just as the early church needed the Holy Spirit, the same free gift or endowment of power is here today for you to receive. Nothing has changed except the time and place. It's the same Holy Spirit empowerment. If these are Jesus' last instructions to his church, that means you are not except and are in need of the same gift of the Holy Spirit. You may say that you have the Holy Spirit, and if you're born again, you do, but if you don't have the gift or endowment of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues, you haven't received the free Gift of the Holy Spirit yet which is for every Christian.

All of the 120 disciples received this baptism in the Holy Spirit at Pentecost which was evidenced with speaking in tongues. If Jesus desired to give it to them and knew they needed it, are you or I any different?