

# HOLY SPIRIT POWER

November 11th, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

Part 23 – Religious Privileges That Lead to Lukewarmness

Today's message will highlight some of the attributes and reasons as to why Christians need the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and that not one is exempt from it.

Let's open **Acts 4:13** in the Amplified Bible where it says this *“Now when the men of the Sanhedrin (Jewish High Court) saw the confidence and boldness of Peter and John, and grasped the fact that they were uneducated and untrained [ordinary] men, they were astounded, and began to recognize that they had been with Jesus.”*

These disciples were uneducated and untrained ordinary men. They had no formal religious training in the rabbinical schools. Some of you are uneducated and untrained ordinary men and women and when people see you, do they see that you know and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Are they astounded for what they see in you?

There are also some of you **have** formal religious training, but that education may be hindering the move of the Holy Spirit in your life? If Jesus and his apostles needed the Holy Spirit, why are you exempt of that need in your life?

We've read this scripture many times, but let's read it again, **Acts 2:4**; *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Among those in the upper room were the mother of Jesus, his sibling brothers and other women who followed Jesus as **Acts 1:14** says; *“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”*

All of those in the upper room received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, no one was exempt, not even his mother and brothers. The 3000 believers that were added to the Church were promised the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as we read in **Acts 2:37-39**; *“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” 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. 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, we see that Jesus received the Holy Spirit when he was baptized; the 12 disciples received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit; everyone in the upper room including his mother and brothers received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit; and 3000 received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**If all of these needed the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, why are you exempt of that need in your life?** What makes you more privileged than all of these?

✓ The Baptism of the Holy Spirit gives us power to **witness** the Gospel to others.

**Acts 1:8** says; *“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.”*

✓ The Baptism of the Holy Spirit will give you the power to **live a holy life**.

We read in **Romans 8:1-2**; *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has*

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*made me free from the law of sin and death.” It also says in **Romans 8:13**; “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”*

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit does not make you perfect in walking holy, simply because you still have a free will to live holy or not. However, you have the power to live holy if you choose to. We read in I and II Corinthians that the Church in Corinth were baptized in the Holy Spirit with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit operating, but if you read Paul’s letters to the Church, they had their share of Christians who chose not to live holy and Paul had to rebuke and even admonish them to repent. Again, if the Church in Corinth needed the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to live a holy life, what makes you exempt of that need in your life and so privileged to be exempt from that need in your life?

✓ The Holy Spirit is the **Comforter** that lives in you forever.

Jesus said 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, 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 Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the only thing in life that will satisfy you forever and bring you the greatest comfort that you will ever know.

Let’s read **Luke 11:24-26**; *“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.”*

When you get born again, you become a new creation in Christ Jesus. The god of this world – the devil – has been kicked out of your spiritual house and you’ve been delivered from his clutch. But if you’re not baptised in the Holy Spirit after being delivered – born again and becoming a Christian – the evil spirit will return at some point in your life with seven others spirits, and if he sees your life swept clean but void of power, maybe filled with religion and religious works, the last of your life will be worse than when it was when you first needed deliverance. Jesus plainly stated above that if that spiritual house is not filled, the last state will be worse than the first.

That’s why you see so many Christians living lukewarm lives. It’s because after they were delivered from an evil spirit, swept their temple clean but rejected the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to have their spiritual house totally filled and full; at some point, that evil spirit will return and instead of seeing ‘no vacancy’ they see the door open and no defences to thwart his access.

We read about lukewarm Christians in **Revelation 3:14-22**; *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. **Therefore be zealous and repent**. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* ,”

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Are you a lukewarm Christian that believes you have no need to be baptised in the Holy Spirit? Why are you exempt of that need in your life, if Jesus and his disciples needed it why are you so privileged to not need it in your life? You will never be satisfied until you are baptised in the Holy Spirit. You'll never be satisfied with religious works. You'll continuously slip into a lukewarm lifestyle at some point or another. You'll continually fall into compromise in one way or another because you don't have the power of the Holy Spirit operating in your life to withstand the onslaught of the devil.

Is it worth it then to reject that Baptism in the Holy Spirit? There is not a good future for the lukewarm Christian unless you repent, because if not, Jesus will vomit you out of his mouth. He didn't spare any visual power when he spoke those words. Jesus explicitly says that he'd rather have you hot or cold, but being lukewarm has catastrophic results – being spit out of his mouth in the end.

✓ The Baptism of Holy Spirit is going to give you **health and healing now in your mortal body's**.

**Romans 8:11** says; *“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*

This is not referring to the future resurrection of our body's, but rather health and healing now. Could this be the reason why so many Christians who have rejected the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and who are lukewarm, are physically and mentally ill, laying claim that it's inherited sickness, that's in the blood and part of the family genes; instead of saying it's a generational evil spirit that needs to be stopped once and for all?

**John 10:10** says; *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

**3 John 2** says; *“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”*

The devil robs. Jesus' plan is to give you an abundant, healthy life in Christ. Sickness is of the devil otherwise Jesus went to the cross and took those 39 lashes, beatings, crown of thorns all in vain. Remember **Isaiah 53:5** says; *“...by His strips we are healed.”*

Are you straddling the fence today? One foot in the world and the other in the church? If you're walking in compromise, duality or neutrality and living lukewarm – you've opened up the door to the devil to walk right back into your life. Are you rejecting the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, walking around in pride with a religious privy mindset? Satan does not want you to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit because then you'll walk in power and authority to keep him at bay and have authority over him.

✓ The Holy Spirit will **guide the Christian into all truth**.

Jesus says this about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in **John 16:12-13**; *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*

Repetition is good...so I want to ask the same question; why are you so privileged to not have need of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? If Jesus and all of his disciples needed to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, what makes you exempt from that need in your life as a Christian? Could this be the reason why you may be living a lukewarm Christian life, unsatisfied, no power to live a holy life, one foot in the world and one foot in the church?

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Having your house swept clean but not having it filled with the command of the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, only makes it more likely and easier for you to become lukewarm. A little leaven of unbelief and rationalization, will leaven the whole lump.

When you reject the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you're rejecting Jesus' command. Does He not know what's best for you? You'll have no power to fight the devil and believe me, he will fight you. If you reject the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, there's a pretty good chance you're going to end up lukewarm at some point in your life. You may have form of godliness, very religious, but void of Holy Spirits power to keep the devil out. You don't want him coming back full throttle with seven more wicked spirits.

Jesus' last words in **Acts 1:4-5** were; *“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.”*

I'd ask you again, how can you say that it doesn't apply to you? How come you can be the exception to the rule that Jesus laid out? Rationalism and unbelief are the key attributes in denominations that reject the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If you're not filled with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and daily having your cup filled to overflowing, then what are you filling yourself with?

It does not have to be this way. You can come out of rationalism which based in fear and unbelief and receive the same power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus and His disciples received. All you need to do is repent of the religious privileged mindset of having no need to be Baptised in the Holy Spirit and ask Jesus to forgive you and Baptize you in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Please read this short script by Bob Snook entitled, 'Laodicea'.