

**The Azusa Street Papers Overview – Bond Slave of Christ**  
**Message 20, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

We start by reading **1 Corinthians 2:1-4**; “*2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come **with excellence of speech or of wisdom** declaring to you the [a]testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ and Him crucified**. 3 I was with you **in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling**. 4 And my speech and my preaching were **not with persuasive words of [b]human wisdom**, but in demonstration of the **Spirit and of power**.”*

When you read the testimonies of the Saints in the Azusa Street Papers, they always had one thing in common, and that was the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire which they all had received with the evidence of speaking in tongues, and the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised His disciples would receive in Acts 1:8, 2:1-4.

John the Baptist prophesied about it in **Matthew 3:11**; “*11 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 [a]and fire.*”

**Acts 1:8** says; “*8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*”

**Acts 2:1-4** says; “*2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all [a]with one accord in one place. 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 [b]divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

What separated the Saints at the Azusa Street mission from other denominations in Los Angeles, was that they had received the same Pentecost promise that Jesus spoke about that empowered them with the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Without the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, there is no power in a Christians life, and rejecting the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire ultimately will lead them to deny its power and backslide in one way or another.

**2 Timothy 3:1-9** says; “*3 But know this, that in the last days [a]perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, [b]unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.*”

This scripture sounds like what is transpiring today. It’s sad to see that people can have a ‘form of godliness’ while in the same breath be so wicked. It shows how dark it is going to get, it’s where they will call good, evil and call evil, good. The Apostle Paul even says that we’re not to fellowship with people who act like this, they

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don't enter your house and you don't enter their house, you're to turn away from their actions. It sounds harsh as the woke mindset that has crept into the church today says that you can fellowship with anyone, but according to Paul, it is so.

When Christians deny the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and reject Jesus' last command to be Baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire, they are in essence insulting the Spirit of Grace and it's inevitable that they will backslide in one way or another, and this is why today we have so many denominations that having rejected the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, have as a result become lukewarm, seeker-friendly Churches with no Holy Ghost power.

**Hebrews 10:26-31** says; *"26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," [a]says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

When you have a form of godliness and deny the power of God's baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, you become a worldly Christian who will not be able to bear his reproach and be nailed to the cross as He was outside the city and live a crucified life of obedience to all of Christ's commands.

ASUZA PAPERS says the following;

*"Wherefore Jesus also that He might sanctify the people with His own Blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach." Heb. 13:12, 13.*

*Many Christians have never been nailed to the cross outside of the city. They know what it is to be born in the city, but they have never gone outside the gate bearing His reproach. We see the need of a crucified, sanctified, holy life that we might be one with Christ Jesus; but we will never get it in the city, that is, without crucifixion. In the city, there is pride, fame, and honor; but outside the gate, on the cross, hangs our Saviour, who is despised and dishonored, rejected of men. It was there He suffered to sanctify His people. The crown of thorns was put upon Him in Pilate's judgment hall and His back marked with the stripes, and the Blood dripped all the way to the cross, so the way is marked for us by His Blood."*

When Christians are not dead to self and not living a crucified life outside the worldly, seeker-friendly Church, it's easy to deny Christ's command to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit and Fire, and replace the power of the Holy Spirit with Church programs, entertainment, and motivational sermons that focus on eternal security without the sanctification from sin.

In **Romans 6:1-14** the Apostle Paul says this; *"1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified*

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*with Him, that the body of sin might be [a]done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been [b]freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, [c]reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as [d]instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”*

Without living a crucified life, you won't live a sanctified life, which must transpire to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus explicitly says in Matthew 16:24-26 that we need to pick up our cross and follow Him.

Sanctification is a requisite to being Baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire, and it will not be found in seeker-friendly Churches that have removed repentance of sin from their sermons. Could this be the reason why Christians are not being Baptised with the Holy Spirit and Fire? I would not like to be the preacher on judgement day that has caused Christians to sin and reject Jesus' last command to be Baptised in the Holy Spirit and Fire.

Jesus himself said in **Matthew 18:6**; *“6 But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”*

Let me repeat this again, sanctification is a requisite to being Baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire, and it will not be found in seeker-friendly Churches that have removed repentance of sin from their sermons. That is what is putting a stumbling block before your brothers and sisters in Christ. That is disabling them from going forward in Christ to be able to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

ASUZA PAPERS says;

*In the city, we find people with conversion. But you must come out of the worldly church today, into some little cottage prayer meeting or mission to get sanctified. There are few church members that will stand up straight for sanctification. There were few synagogues that would receive Jesus. He preached from a boat on the sea, and when there was not room for the crowds there, He went out into the mountain.*

*The old man of sin must be slain and Christ must be enthroned in our hearts. Then we are prepared to receive the precious gift of the Spirit. The reason so many cannot see it is because it is so plain and simple. It takes a simple person to believe the Word and stand on it, and look up into Father's face and claim His promise through Jesus Christ. The way is so plain that a wayfaring man though a fool, need not err therein.”*

Jesus made the Baptism in the Holy Spirit so simple to receive, yet religion has taken the power out of the church and replaced it with programs, motivational speaking, entertainment etc., so that people's hearts are dull of hearing Holy Spirit's voice. If sin is not repented of, you can't receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

If you're not baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire yet, it would be good to examine your Christian life and see if you are living a crucified walk with Christ, dead to sin, and alive to Him. If you're not willing to sanctify your life and repent of sin, it's a pretty clear indicator that you're not willing to pick up your cross and follow

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Him. Jesus will not cross your will. Your will has everything to do with your walk with Christ and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In **Matthew 16:24** in the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition, it says; “*24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and take up his cross and follow Me [[a]cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also].*”

**Galatians 2:20** also says in the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition; “*20 I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*”

A crucified Christian is a dead man or woman walking, they are dead to themselves and what the world the flesh and the devil could offer them, and this is why the Apostle Paul as well as the rest of the Apostles were known as a bond servant of Christ.

**Romans 1:1** says; “*Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*”

Definition of BOND SERVANT according to [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org) is; “*A bondservant is a slave. In some Bibles the word bondservant is the translation of the Greek word doulos, which means “one who is subservient to, and entirely at the disposal of, his master; a slave.” Other translations use the word slave or servant.*”

So really, if you call yourself a Christian, you’re a bond-slave of Christ, even though Christians don’t like the word slave or servant, when they made a decision to follow Jesus you made a decision to give up your rights to your life, to obey Jesus in everything.

*“In Roman times, the term bond servant or slave could refer to someone who voluntarily served others. But it usually referred to one who was held in a permanent position of servitude. Under Roman law, a bondservant was considered the owner’s personal property.”*

When you signed up to be a Christian, you signed up for involuntary bond servanthood, you became a bond servant of Christ. It wasn’t to volunteer your life for one day but to die to self for your entire life. Die to the world, the flesh and the devil, to all the temptations that would lead you astray from accomplishing your job as a bond servant. This does not only apply to pastors, teachers, evangelists etc., it applies to every Christian. The only way to water it down would be is to become seeker-friendly, then you wouldn’t talk about sin, righteousness and the judgment to come. Jesus is to be Lord of every area of your life.

**1 Corinthians 7:22** says; “*22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave.*”

**Romans 6:22** says; “*22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit [a]to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.*”

So, if being a Christian means you are a bond slave of Christ, then you have no rights except what He commands you to do. So what makes some Christians exempt from obeying his last command found in Acts

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1:4-5 if this is the case? Are there certain laws for certain bond slaves? No, all bond slaves have the same expectations on them.

**Acts 1:4-5** says; “4 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; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Could it be that a lot of Christians never counted the cost of being a disciple of Christ when they prayed for him to be Lord of their lives?

**Luke 14:25-33** in the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition says; “25 Now huge crowds were going along with [Jesus], and He turned and said to them, 26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his [own] father and mother [[a]in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison with his attitude toward God] and [likewise] his wife and children and brothers and sisters—[yes] and even his own life also—he cannot be My disciple. 27 Whoever does not persevere and carry his own cross and come after (follow) Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, wishing to build a [b]farm building, does not first sit down and calculate the cost [to see] whether he has sufficient means to finish it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid the foundation and is unable to complete [the building], all who see it will begin to mock and jeer at him, 30 Saying, This man began to build and was not able ([c]worth enough) to finish. 31 Or what king, going out to engage in conflict with another king, will not first sit down and consider and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand [men] to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if he cannot [do so], when the other king is still a great way off, he sends an envoy and asks the terms of peace. 33 So then, any of you who does not forsake (renounce, surrender claim to, give up, [d]say good-bye to) all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

You can see the importance of living a crucified life, because without it, you won't receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit because you can't even sanctify your life to put yourself in a position to receive it. There is a need to repent of sins, to be sanctified, to wait on Him so He can fill you with power and fire to fulfil the call on your life.

Here is some food for thought. I wonder what a worse judgement is in the following four?

1. Christians that lie to the Holy Spirit, such as in the case of Ananias, with Sapphira. They lied to the Holy Spirit about their money. They said they gave all their money to the church but really held some back. They not only lied to men, but to the Holy Spirit. This is a serious judgment.
2. Christians who have the form of godliness and deny the power of God, denying His power to operate in the church and in their lives personally. You can call yourself a Christian but you're calling good, evil and evil, good. This is a serious judgment.
3. Christians who have trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace. If you don't take seriously what Jesus did on the cross, this is a serious judgment and you're being nonchalant and insulting the Holy Spirit.
4. Christians who disobey Jesus' last command and reject the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire for their lives. There is a difference between rejecting the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and saying that it doesn't exist and accrediting the manifestations of it to the devil.

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These are all serious stances that many Christians are walking in today. Maybe we'll look into these further at a future date, but none of us should willfully be doing these things. Are you crucified with Christ today which leads to living a sanctified life, that leads to an open door for you to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

**1 Corinthians 3:11-13** says; *<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*