

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

The Azusa Street Papers Overview – Christian History Makers
Message 31 – January 8th, 2023

The Saints at Azusa Street were Christian History Makers that refused to bow the knee to religious and secular leaders of their day, and like the early church Christians, they continued to preach with boldness not only the salvation message, but also the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues. They moved in the same power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders and miracles following them, and the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit were always allowed to operate in these meetings, for they did not bow their knee to anyone else except Jesus.

AZUSA PAPERS says;

“Bro. W. J. Seymour has the following to say in regard to his call to this city: “It was the divine call that brought me from Houston, Texas, to Los Angeles. The Lord put it in the heart of some of the saints in Los Angeles to write to me that she felt the Lord would have me come over here and do a work, and I came, for I felt it was the leading of the Lord. The Lord sent the means, and I came to take charge of a mission on Santa Fe Street, and one night they locked the door against me, and afterwards got Bro. Roberts, the president of the Holiness Association, to come down and settle the doctrine of the Baptism with the Holy Ghost, that it was simply sanctification. He came down and a good many holiness preachers with him, and they stated that sanctification was the baptism with the Holy Ghost. But yet they did not have the evidence of the second chapter of Acts, for when the disciples were all filled with the Holy Ghost, they spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance. After the president heard me speak of what the true baptism of the Holy Ghost was, he said he wanted it too, and told me that when I had received it to let him know. So I received it and let him know.””

You can see that this church who had invited Brother Seymour to pastor them, brought in the President of their association and an entourage of others, to discredit him and terminate his position. All for preaching on speaking in tongues as the sign of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. We know that when Brother Seymour arrived in Los Angeles, he had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit but had heard the teaching of it in Topeka, Kansas in Bible School and was earnestly seeking it and preaching it. This is a testimony of Romans 4:17, of calling those things which do not exist as though they did.

Brother Seymour stood up for the teaching on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit when he himself had not received it yet, and as a result, was locked out of the Church by the saints there that he was to Pastor, who believed that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was simply sanctification and the evidence was not speaking in tongues but rather living a sanctified life as a Christian was the evidence. I believe that had W.J. Seymour submitted unto the Holiness doctrine on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, God would have raised someone else up in order that the truth be told and experienced. It wasn't just limited to Seymour and is not just limited to you either. If you don't preach this, God will raise up someone else to preach it. Sometimes we get the mindset of being indispensable, that you can't be disposed of, but if you don't obey God's word and what He's telling you to preach and go the opposite direction, He'll raise up someone else to preach it.

Jesus is going to build His Church regardless of whether Christians obey Him or not, and He is not limited to raise up other Christians that will preach that speaking in tongues is the Bible evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, when they themselves have not yet even received it. It wasn't until Bro. Seymour was locked out of the Church he was to pastor, that he then was able to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, and it didn't take place in a church sanctuary, but rather in a small cottage prayer meeting on Bonnie Brae Street.

AZUSA PAPERS says;

“The meetings in Los Angeles started in a cottage meeting, and the Pentecost fell there three nights. The people had nothing to do but wait on the Lord and praise Him, and they commenced speaking in tongues, as they did at Pentecost, and the Spirit sang songs through them.”

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You're not going to be a Christian History Maker by going with the religious flow that leads to no Holy Ghost power in your life, you have to stand up and go against the flow, even if you're locked out of your Church fellowship, as one door is closed a greater door will be opened for you to fulfill the call of God on your life. It's not necessarily a bad thing to have this happen if you're standing up for truth, which brother Seymour was doing. It seems as though brother Seymour had to get out from the false teachers, those who were discrediting tongues, a denomination that was holding him back, to get him in an environment of those that had faith to believe for tongues. If you're hungering for this baptism, you need to be in a church where it's embraced, otherwise and more than likely you won't receive it. See it as a blessing then if they lock you out for a passionate hunger for tongues, see it as a blessing when they speak evil of you. You won't fulfill your call in a dead church that won't allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to move or won't teach on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, they have a form of religion but deny it's power, the power of the Holy Spirit.

Are you going to be a Christian History Maker or is religious history going to make and shape you into its image? Let's look at an example of the apostles Peter and John who refused to bow the knee to their religious leaders of their day.

Acts 4:13-22 says; *"13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. 14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a [a] notable miracle has been done through them is evident[b] to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." 18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. 22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed."*

You may say that this was a different setting, in that it was a Jewish religion and not a Christian religion that was persecuting them, well I would say that it's the same religious spirit that is rejecting the Holy Spirit's obvious power that is found in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in exchange for maintaining a religious image as it was with the Holiness Church who maintained that their doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was upon sanctification. They probably lived sanctified religious lives, but they rejected at first the teaching of speaking in tongues to be the Bible evidence of being baptised in the Holy Spirit, but later received the same baptism and spoke in tongues. It's no different today in that there are many Christian denominations that have rejected it, and have dug their heels in and are persecuting Christians that are filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.

You may say that you're just splitting hairs regarding doctrinal issues that don't really matter, after all, isn't just being born again what really matters? Well, while you're settling for just a presumed ticket to heaven, and a religious image on earth, the fact is that it's not a matter of splitting hairs, but rather separating truth from lies, true doctrine from false doctrine. Christian History Makers practice the truth, and preserve it for generations to come, they don't care about maintaining a religious image, but rather simply obeying God's word found in the Bible and do not bow the knee to both secular and religious leaders when it comes to preserving their Christian faith. Let's look at another example Christian History Makers – the apostles - who refused to allow religious history to make them into to their image.

Acts 5:12-32 says; *"12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. 13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. 14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who*

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were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. 17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with [a]indignation, 18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. 19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." 21 And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the [b]council together, with all the [c]elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, 23 saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing [d]outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" 24 Now when [e]the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. 25 So one came and told them, [f]saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" 26 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, 28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" 29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

We have to keep in perspective that the apostles and disciples were keeping Jesus alive everywhere they went, by performing signs, wonders and miracles in His name by the power of the Holy Spirit, they made Christian History by not allowing the religious traditional history of men to make them into their dead religious image. Nothing has changed today, so long as a Christian is baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and is operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they are keeping Jesus alive by fulfilling His last commandment to His disciples found in Acts 1:4-8.

Is Jesus being kept alive in you today? By what is He being kept alive you may ask; by Christian fellowship, praying for the sick and seeing them healed, signs, wonders and miracles following the preaching of the word, speaking in tongues and interpretation, operating in the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit etc. Jesus is alive, not dead. Keep Him alive in you. A lot of 'religion' wants to keep the obvious supernatural demonstration of the power of Jesus dead, it's the same spirit in operation today that was 2000 years ago that wants Him kept dead. They don't want to see the power of the Holy Spirit in operation, they want you to keep that part dead. They preach against it. Why do they want to see that part of Jesus to remain dead? Because it's the same religious spirit that rejects the last command of Jesus to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Why would a Christian religion not want you to experience what the apostles and early disciples experienced, though they have faith in Jesus, they believe in Jesus, they have faith that He's their Messiah? Who's really in the pulpit when they don't want the baptism of the Holy Spirit in their church, when the Holy Spirit is grieved, kicked out and replaced with dead forms of man and religion? What's motivating the preacher in the pulpit to teach lies? Could it be the same spirit that persecuted the early church through the religious leaders of the day?

Are you going to obey God rather than men, and be able to say like the apostles; in verse 32 "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

AZUSA PAPERS says;

"Many church members are paying their way to hell. They are paying preachers to preach against the baptism with the Holy Ghost. They are getting poisoned against the truth and it is damning their souls. People need the baptism with the Holy Ghost that they may know God. "It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord." If we do not get the Spirit in our hearts, how can we know about the deep things of God? We cannot be His witnesses to the uttermost parts of

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the earth till we speak in new tongues. He gives us power to lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover, and to speak with new tongues and cast out devils. Dear ones, we need the baptism with the Holy Ghost.”

Once again, who’s motivating the person in the pulpit that’s preaching to come against and speak against the baptism in the Holy Spirit...and getting paid to do it? It’s a valid question that deserves an answer. Are you a Christian History Maker, or has religious history made you into its image? This is another valid question to ask yourself today, because you’re going to be known as one or the other, a preserver of Christian truth or a preserver of Christian lies, and last time I checked in the book of Revelation 22:14-16, loving and practicing lies is on the list of those who don’t make it into heaven.

Revelation 22:14-16 says; “14 Blessed are those who [a]do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 [b]But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. 16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

Jesus said this, ‘whoever loves and practices a lie’. When you preach and teach against the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, you love and practice lies. Pastors, you’re lying to your congregation, you’re lying to the Holy Spirit, boldly speaking lies without conviction and loving it to the point of creating extensive videos, mocking it, loving it and lying about it! What part of ‘outside the kingdom of heaven’, don’t you understand, for those who love and practice a lie.

Be a Christian History Maker today and don’t allow religion to shape you into its dead form and image. Shape your life by Christians who laid down their lives by what has been tried and true and is what we’re preaching. Shape your life by Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of your faith, don’t bow your knee to a religious image or to the secular. Don’t find yourself outside the kingdom of heaven, do His commandments that you might have the right to the tree of life, fulfill His last commandment to His disciples to be baptised in the Holy Spirit and have signs that follow you as you believe; cast out devils, speak with new tongues, lay hands on the sick, obey that command, that you may enter into the city.

But if you speak against it, your outside with the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters, because you chose to love and practice a lie instead of doing His commandments. Jesus wrote this; you may say that sounds harsh that Jesus would send someone to hell for preaching against the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but is it? It’s the choice someone has made. They loved a lie. It’s blasphemy against the Holy Spirit when you’re accrediting the works of the Holy Spirit to be that of the devil. I’d encourage you to put a guard over your mouth if it’s in your heart Christian preacher and layperson, don’t speak it. If someone has sowed those lies into your heart and they’ve started to take root, don’t let it grow, don’t allow those lies to grow that say the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues is of the devil...don’t let it grow and don’t believe those lies. Consequences to these lies are eternal, it’s not just outside the gates of the city but the eternal judgement of the lake of fire for eternity. Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit, repent before it’s too late. You can’t accredit the works of the Holy Spirit to be that of the devil and get away with it, it’s serious sin that affects your life for eternity.

Be a Christian History Maker with your life. Make history with your life by laying down your life for Jesus and taking up your cross and follow Him. Receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. Leave a legacy of truth, not lies.