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

The Azusa Street Papers – Word of Wisdom – Message 10 March 13th, 2022

I'd like to start by reading **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**, it says; "4 There are [a] diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works [b]all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of <u>wisdom</u> through the Spirit, to another the word of <u>knowledge</u> through the same Spirit, 9 to another <u>faith</u> by the same Spirit, to another gifts of <u>healings</u> by [c]the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of <u>miracles</u>, to another prophecy, to another <u>discerning of spirits</u>, to another <u>different kinds</u> <u>of tongues</u>, to another the <u>interpretation of tongues</u>. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."

These nine gifts are available to those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Maybe seven of them could operate in those who are not baptized in the Holy Spirit, but because they lack the power – which the Holy Spirit gives – cannot operate in those gifts in the fullness of their power, because it's the Holy Spirit who baptizes with power. You could liken those not baptized in the Holy Spirit to those five foolish virgins, who think they are filled and ready for the bridegroom, but they aren't as they only had a portion of the Spirit.

AZUSA PAPERS says; "TONGUES AS A SIGN. Man is a fallen creature, and as such cannot receive the things of the kingdom of heaven, because they are spiritual and "foolishness unto him." He must be born again to understand God and His word. God recognizes this, and all through the ages has granted signs and wonders to awaken man from his spiritual death and turn him to seeking after God."

Supernatural wisdom that occurs is a gift from God, which appears foolish in that it has no origin in the natural mind of man, but is spiritual, which means there is nothing for man to glory in and become proud about, because it does not come from man but from God. This is one of the main reasons why the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, is not allowed to operate in most churches today, because there is no room for the pastor to take glory in it. It would mean that they would have to be open to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit operating in the body of believers as a whole, and not just one person (himself) in the pulpit. Most pastors don't want to give up that glory. But God says He'll share His glory with no man and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given corporately on the body of Christ. So in the church, you have the pastor, but also these nine gifts that are to be in operation in the church, and if they're not, you question the pastors motive and intent – does he want the glory for himself? It's like the message from last week entitled, 'Man-of-God Syndrome', where the whole church evolves around one person in the pulpit.

The Apostle Paul says that we're only to glory in the Lord in **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** says; "26 For [e]you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many [f]noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the [g]base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—31 that, as it is written, "<u>He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.</u>"

Jesus taught His disciples that in times of persecution from the secular authority's, they were not to worry about what they would say, and it is here that the <u>word of wisdom</u> would speak thru them and would not be scripted with man's rational and reason, but come only from the Holy Spirit within them.

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Jesus says in **Matthew 10:18-20**; "18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

When the disciple of Christ, Stephen, spoke to the religious authorities prior to them killing him, he operated in the word of wisdom by the power of the Holy Spirit that the religious leaders could not stand up against.

We read this in **Acts 6:8-10**; "8 And Stephen, full of [a] faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the <u>wisdom and the Spirit</u> by which he spoke."

The wisdom that Stephen spoke by the power of the Holy Spirit cost him his life, because the Holy Spirit thru him exposed the religious leaders as the murderers of Christ and also of the prophets who foretold His coming. Stephen knew what the prophets said.

We read this in Acts 7:51-53; "51 "You stiff-necked[a] and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

The same can be said today of churches that have become stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! They always resist the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, as their religious leaders did, so do they. The word of wisdom is not pre-scripted and cannot be controlled by religious spirits, for it is knowledge or memory of the Bible scriptures that are given by the Holy Spirit to speak at specific times and places. This is why it is so important to study the Bible so that by the Holy Spirit you are able to give an answer to those who would speak against the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

So the word of wisdom is the word of the Lord, and it's done by the more sure word of prophecy, which is the Word. The word of wisdom is enforced by the Word of God, the Word which you've been meditating on day and night. The Holy Spirit will choose at a certain time and certain season for you to speak that word of wisdom as He reveals it to whomever He leads you to.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says; "16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [a]instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

In John 16:5-15, Jesus says; "5 But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 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. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

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So the Holy Spirit will do that – '*He will take of Mine and declare it to you*' – by words of wisdom, by His Word, the more sure word of prophecy, the word that has been deposited in you because you've studied it, He'll bring it back to your memory so that you can speak it under the anointing.

Jesus says in Luke 21:10-15; "10 Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. 12 But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. 13 But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. 14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will [a]answer; 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or [b]resist."

What will they not be able to contradict or resist? The word of wisdom, the word you've been meditating on, the word you've been memorizing and the deposits that you've been making into your spiritual account. All of that will be brought back to memory and you'll speak it forth.

God will give you the word of wisdom to speak when confronted about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, but this will come with persecution from nominal churches that have rejected it.

Let's read what persecutions took place as a result of the Azusa revival, taken from Watchman Research Media.

"Until the Charismatic Renewal made speaking in tongues almost fashionable, the price for being a Pentecostal was very high, and those early Pentecostal pioneers must be considered some of the great heroes of the faith. Caricatures of Pentecostals were carried in newspapers across the country, depicting them as anything from devil worshippers to lunatics.

Employment was difficult, if not impossible, for anyone found to be a Pentecostal. The houses and church buildings of Pentecostals were often burned, and their children were ostracized, called "devil worshipers," and subjected to ruthless beatings by other children. Many had to flee from homes and towns that they had grown up in. Both the press and historians have turned a blind eye to this persecution against Pentecostals."

AZUSA PAPERS:

"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 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."

One might ask the question, how are they paying the preachers? Numerous ways; by tithes, offerings, radio, TV, booklets, leaflets, social media, websites, etc.

James 3:13-17 talks about heavenly versus demonic wisdom; "13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and [a]self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

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I believe that the Churches that are persecuting the Christians that are baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, are operating in earthly wisdom that James spoke of, and as a result of bitter envy and self-seeking in their hearts, they boast and lie against the truth about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues found in the Book of Acts.

AZUSA PAPERS;

"The meetings have been going on now for about six months at Azusa Street day and night. How long are they going to continue? We expect them to keep on till Jesus comes, by the grace of God. The religion of Jesus Christ is no more popular now than it was when Jesus was here. Many are rejecting the truth and are not going to receive it. The word not only says that signs shall follow them that believe, but that "They that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." This also is being fulfilled."

In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus talks about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins; "25 Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom [a] is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour [b] in which the Son of Man is coming."

AZUSA PAPERS:

"THE TEN VIRGINS. I saw a vision of the ten virgins before me, five wise and five foolish. The five foolish virgins had oil in their vessels and their lamps were burning. The five wise virgins also had their lamps burning, and oil in their vessels. This was something more than a clean heart and yet the same nature. The oil in their vessels with their lamps was the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire. The five foolish virgins were holiness people, but they were saying, "There is nothing in it, we got it when we were sanctified and we are satisfied." But the Lord showed me that the five foolish virgins, who would not accept the doctrine and seek the double supply of oil, will find that their lamps are beginning to go out, burning low. There is nothing to keep burning. They are burning now just as brightly as they ever will. The time is coming when the oil is going to give out. Let me warn you, do not oppose the baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire, for if you oppose it your lamp will go out, but you get that vessel filled with oil. The cry went forth, "The bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him!" Then those poor ones whose lamps were going out, said, "We have not enough oil." And as they went to buy or seek the baptism with the Holy Ghost, (for the time is coming when they will begin to seek) the bridegroom was taken away. Dear ones, do you want to be there when Jesus comes? If you do, seek the Holy Ghost today."

We see that the foolish virgins had oil in their lamps, but not enough for their light was burning out. According to what this person saw and heard, is that the foolish virgins said they were sanctified and had the baptism in the Holy Spirit upon sanctification, but they didn't have the fullness of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

It gives the impression that the foolish virgins, if they were to, probably wouldn't go to hell, as they were born again and had a portion of the Holy Spirit, but it would seem that upon the rapture of the church, they wouldn't make it, because they didn't have enough oil – the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

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That would mean that they could potentially see seven years of tribulation, to stand up for Christ, to not take the mark of the beast, suffer terribly and to ultimately to give their lives as martyrs. Or, if left behind, would they be deceived into taking the mark of the beast? All of that could be avoided had they had their lamps trimmed and burning with a double portion of the Holy Spirit. That's what it seems like this person saw in the vision. It would seem then, according to this vision, is that their sin was rejecting and opposing the baptism in the Holy Spirit and weren't ready and prepared for the rapture of the church.

In reading the scriptures, the Lord is coming back for His church that is spotless, and in order to be spotless you need the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you need to be continually filled with your lamp trimmed and burning. Could this possibly be the truth? It's something serious to take into consideration and to be obedient to Jesus' last command before He ascended into heaven where He told the disciples in **Acts 1:4-5**; "*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 <u>baptized with the Holy Spirit</u> not many days from now."*

You need to give up the erroneous doctrine that hinders you from receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, that includes pastors. Regardless as to the vision we read about, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is still commanded of by Jesus Himself, tongues is for today, the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are for today!

Jesus specifically said in **Mark 16:15-18**; "¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who ^[d] believe: In My name they will <u>cast out demons</u>; they will <u>speak with new tongues</u>; ¹⁸ they^[e] will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will <u>lay hands on the sick</u>, and they will recover."

If you look at any mainline denomination around the world...who is casting out devils, laying hands on the sick and moving in the nine gifts of the Spirit? That would probably be close to zero. A good question to ask yourself today, if these signs are not happening in your life, are you fulfilling the great commission and obedient to Jesus' last words? You need the baptism in the Holy Spirit so that you live a holy life now – according to His ability – to stand before Jesus spotless by the power of the Holy Spirit. As we saw in the early church in the Book of Acts and as we've read about in the Azusa Street revival, they had tremendous persecution – just as today – by government, media and Christians who were not baptized in the Holy Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us the power to stand, endure, preach and go into all the world. Being born again will get you into heaven, but there is so much more for you to live and experience upon receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, with His gifts in operation.

This may sound harsh and narrow minded, but think of what you've been doing to the Holy Spirit since you've become a Christian, think about the lies that you've been believing and teaching, lying about the nine gifts of the Spirit that they're not needed for today or that tongues are not needed. Do you think that the Holy Spirit might be just a little grieved? Do you have a spotless heart towards the Holy Spirit and His baptism? Be honest with yourself today, humble yourself and receive the Holy Spirit today, have your lamp trimmed and burning expecting Jesus' return any day.

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