

**The Azusa Street Papers – What Separates the Men from the Boys in the Pulpits? Holy Ghost Power.
January 9th, 2022, Message 4**

Today, we're talking about the gift of healing and the working of miracles.

The gift of healing and working of miracles was given to Spirit filled Christians after Pentecost, individually as the Holy Spirit wills, whereas prior to Pentecost, it was a corporate word for all of Jesus' 12 Apostles and 70 disciples. They all had the gift of healing and working of miracles that would follow them. The only difference is that after Pentecost, it would appear that the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus said they would receive corporately, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, is that they would also receive gifts of healing and miracles as the Holy Spirit wills for them to operate in individually.

In other words, what was the norm for a believer to operate in using Jesus' name prior to Pentecost – with signs, wonders and miracles following – is now a work of the Holy Spirit who gives the gift of healing and miracles as He wills to them individually to operate in. This is the reason why you will see preachers who operate more in the gifts of healing and miracles than others do, because it is simply as the Holy Spirit wills to impart these gifts to them, and it also predicates on whether they have been filled with Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

In **Matthew 10:5-10**, before Jesus was crucified and before He had commanded them to wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father which was the baptism in the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, it says; “*5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven [a]is at hand.’ 8 Heal the sick, [b]cleanse the lepers, [c]raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.’*”

This was pre-Pentecost. That is the power the Apostles were walking in, but it wasn't Holy Ghost power which would be poured out on them later, but this was simply the power of the name of Jesus and the specific authority that He gave them. In other words, this was not the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus hadn't died yet at this point.

This is why after Pentecost, they were individually given certain gifts that they operated in as the Holy Spirit willed to give them as a being part of a body of believers, and was not limited to the Apostles alone. Prior to Jesus' ascension to heaven, He commissioned His 11 Apostles to operate in the gifts of healings and miracles and added speaking in tongues that they would soon receive on the day of Pentecost. But keep in mind, that Jesus was also speaking prophetically about a body of believers, that's you and me, the church, who would experience the gifts of healing and miracles operating thru them as well, and would not be limited to the Apostles only, and would predicate on whether we obeyed His command to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Another good example where the gift of healing and miracles was given corporately can be found where Jesus sends out 70 disciples, two by two.

It says in **Luke 10:1-9**; “*10 After these things the Lord appointed [a]seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, ‘The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into*

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His harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. 5 But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. 8 Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. 9 And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

Then it continues in **verses 17-20** saying; "17 Then the [e]seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but [f]rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Again, this was all before Jesus' death, they were performing all of these miracles and working in the power of Jesus' name.

You would think that the Apostles and seventy disciples, who after operating in the gifts of healings and miracles, that nothing more would be needed, after all, they were healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out devils and cleansing the lepers. What could possibly be more supernaturally powerful than what they all were operating in and that they didn't already have?

It was one thing operate in the gifts of healings and miracles while Jesus was alive, but it was another thing after He rose from the dead, for it seemed like until Pentecost, between Jesus' resurrection and Pentecost, the only one now doing the signs wonders and miracles was Jesus. He appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and then disappeared in front of them, He was walking through walls, and many more supernatural signs, wonders and miracles, that it seems like only Jesus was doing. The disciples were walking in fear, doubt and unbelief. But Jesus continually spoke to them about their need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit after He would leave and ascend to heaven.

Could this be the reason now why the gifts of healing and miracles are only in operation, for the most part, in those who are filled with the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues, and for those who are not, the gift lies dormant?

In **Mark 16:14-18**, Jesus gives the great commission to the eleven disciples after He had rose from the dead and before they had chosen Mathias, "14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 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 [a]believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they[b] will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

In **Acts 1:4-8**, the Holy Spirit is promised; "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." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the

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Father has put in His own authority. 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.

Jesus' last words were spoken to eleven apostles, who in turn obeyed what he said, returned to Jerusalem and stayed in the upper room with other disciples, that eventually totaled 120, until they were baptised in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. It was here that the gift of the Holy Spirit, (speaking in tongues), about which Jesus spoke prophetically, came to pass for all His Apostles and disciples. Tongues – was the only evidence that they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and this was the evidence of supernatural power that Jesus said they would receive.

What makes the gifts of healing and miracles even more powerful, is that it's the proven evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive in the person of the Holy Spirit, performing signs, wonders and miracles thru His believers. That's true power, they're representing a risen Saviour. The Jewish religious leaders and the Roman governor responded by lying in order to discredit Jesus' resurrection, they wanted to do away with the resurrection and hence, they persecuted the church, in order to silence the story of the resurrection.

But in the mean time, the church had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and what they were doing was testifying to Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Jesus who was dead and now is alive, who appeared to His Apostles and disciples for 40 days after His resurrection. Again, the disciples already had operated in power, signs, wonders and miracles before Jesus' death, the only thing they didn't have was the resurrected Jesus and speaking in tongues. Prior to that, they had the living Jesus, but now, there is more power because they're preaching about a resurrected Jesus. It's one thing to preach about a living Jesus who is walking, talking and eating with you, it's another thing to preach about a resurrected Jesus! That's where the preaching of the gospel gets offensive.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 talks about Spiritual gifts or gifts of the Holy Spirit; *“I Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 2 You know that[a] you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb[b] idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus [c]accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are [d]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 [e]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 wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by [f]the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”*

What gets offensive, I believe, is that the Holy Spirit is very much alive, it's the gospel being preached in power, you're testifying about a risen Saviour who's still alive, working in your midst, giving you direction, leading you into truth by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that He wouldn't leave His disciples as orphans, but send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to lead them into truth and He's still alive, working in the same way.

I believe the reason that's why gifts of healing and miracles are not taking place for the most part in non-Spirit filled churches, is simply that they have rejected the baptism of the Holy Spirit and not obeyed Jesus' last

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command to His disciples. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is what separates the men from the boys, the mature Christians from the immature. The apostles and disciples operated in the gifts of healing and miracles while Jesus was alive, but it was not till after they were baptized in the Holy Spirit that they operated in those gifts again.

Hebrews 5:12-14 talks about spiritual immaturity; *“12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the [a]oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are [b]of full age, that is, those who by reason of [c]use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

It would seem like these men who the Hebrew write talks about, were boys in the pulpits, still on the milk of the word, not having become men, but pandering to the prophets, pandering the board members and congregation instead of preaching the truth. Let’s look at what separates the men from the boys.

Acts 3:1-9 says; *“3 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to [a]ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.”*

These apostles and disciples are different now, they’ve grown from boys to men, they’re men in the pulpits, men walking in the authority given to them, not cowering in fear wondering that if nothing happens how it would affect their reputation. These are men who now know their authority, they walked, talked, lived and ate with Jesus, they saw Him die, they experienced their own personal fears but saw Him resurrected, received instruction from Him for 40 days before His ascension, they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and are now spiritually mature men, doing what they were commissioned and commanded to do.

Before Pentecost, the disciples were boys in the Spirit, full of themselves, arguing who was going to be the greatest, full of spiritual pride, willing to die for Jesus yet at the hour of trial they denied Him, except for John, full of fear, doubt and unbelief. But at Pentecost, as they waited, they emptied themselves of self to be filled with the Holy Ghost and Comforter and after, testified of a resurrected Jesus with signs, wonders and miracles following them.

In the Azusa Papers, we read of testimonies, which I would say separates the men from the boys;

“ASUZA PAPERS: A gentleman came saying, "I have been afflicted with paralysis eighteen long years, if you can do anything, will you lay your hands on me? Before he was prayed for, he called a physician to be a witness. The Lord relieved the man of his distress in the presence of the physician.

-A man who was deaf and said he had not been able to hear for half his life was prayed for. God instantly gave him his hearing, when he was anointed and prayed for. He was a practicing physician in Oakland.

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-Canes, crutches, medicine bottles, and glasses are being thrown aside as God heals. That is the safe way. No need to keep an old crutch or medicine bottle of any kind around after God heals you. Some, in keeping some such appliance as a souvenir, have been tempted to use them again and have lost their healing.

-A little girl who walked with crutches and had tuberculosis of the bones, as the doctors declared, was healed and dropped her crutches and began to skip about the yard."

I would go so far as to say that the boys in the pulpits are saying today; 'go get your vaccination', 'go see Dr. So and So', 'I think you need to go the physician, you have something that a physician will be able to help you with', etc. They're not spiritually mature men in the pulpits who say these kinds of things. Preach the truth under the anointing with power as a result of Pentecost! The same Pentecost from 33AD needs to be preached today!

Acts 5:12-16 says; "12 The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade. 13 But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. 14 Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. 15 As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. 16 Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil[a] spirits, and they were all healed."

These men walked in the authority of the Holy Spirit, and it's the Holy Spirit that they're bearing witness to, it's the Holy Spirit that filled them.

Acts 9:32-42 says; "32 Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. 33 There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. 34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. 35 So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. 36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named [a]Tabitha, which is translated [b]Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. 41 Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord."

Because of a man of God in the pulpit, and not an immature boy who was pandering to board members, congregation, government or health system, Aeneas was healed and as a result, ALL who lived in Lydda and Sharon turned to Jesus. We need Holy Spirit filled men in the pulpits, not men who are remaining as boys, not maturing, not growing up, not taking responsibility for what the word of God has to say, not standing up for righteous, not defending the true doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues with signs, wonders and miracles following the preaching of the gospel. Peter didn't care about offending anyone, because he knew who Jesus was and was filled with His Holy Spirit. That same power is

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available for everyone today. That's why I speak in tongues, Jesus baptized me in the Holy Spirit who is the same Spirit He poured out at Pentecost, the same Spirit He poured out at Azusa Street and other revivals throughout history. You can't hide this; this is the testimony of the saints! The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us!

We are living in a time when supernatural healing and miracles are needed like never before, and if you are baptised in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, you have the power of the Holy Spirit living inside you, and with that, the Gifts of Healing and Miracles are available to work thru you as He wills, and we know it's His will to heal the sick, so just rise up to the occasion and pray the prayer of faith that heals the sick, and raises the dead back to life. Be the vessel that the Holy Spirit can use today.

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