

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

The Azusa Street Papers – Religious Bullies & Underdog Christians
December 5th, 2021, Message 1

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You've heard of underground Christians, but today we're talking about underdog Christians who are being bullied by religious people.

Jude 3 says; *“Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

We are earnestly contending for a fresh outpouring of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit which was delivered to the saints in the Book of Acts 1 and 2.

Prior to Jesus ascending to Heaven, He gave His disciples very specific directions in the form of a command. Obeying this command had very little to do with them feeling up to it, or having time for it, but rather it was to be obeyed in order for them to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as promised.

The account is in **Acts 1:1-11**; *“1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which [a]He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many [b]infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 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 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 [c]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”*

The disciples of Christ had already been born again of the Holy Spirit and commissioned by Jesus after His resurrection, where, He supernaturally enters a locked room and breaths on them and they receive the Holy Spirit.

We read this in **John 20:19-23**; *“19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were [a]assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”*

This was one of many times that Jesus appeared unto His disciples after He rose from the dead, but it was here that they were born again and received His Holy Spirit. You would think that being born again and given the authority in His name to forgive and or to retain anyone's sins, would be sufficient to be a minister of the

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Gospel, but apparently not so, as we read what later happened to them on the Day of Pentecost where they obeyed His command to wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4; *“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.”*

The disciples were born again by the Holy Spirit when He breathed on them, and now being commanded to wait to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Nothing has changed, the command is the same for anyone that is born again of the Holy Spirit, and as we see in reading a section of the following article found in the Azusa Papers, the same Baptism of the Holy Spirit is needed for ministry of the Gospel as it was for the disciples of Jesus.

“ASUZA PAPERS: THE OLD-TIME PENTECOST.

This work began about five years ago last January, when a company of people under the leadership of Chas. Parham, who were studying God's word, tarried for Pentecost in Topeka, Kan. After searching through the country everywhere, they had been unable to find any Christians that had the true Pentecostal power. So they laid aside all commentaries and notes and waited on the Lord, studying His word, and what they did not understand they got down before the bench and asked God to have wrought out in their hearts by the Holy Ghost. They had a prayer tower from which prayers were ascending night and day to God. After three months, a sister who had been teaching sanctification for the baptism with the Holy Ghost, one who had a sweet, loving experience and all the carnality taken out of her heart, felt the Lord lead her to have hands laid on her to receive the Pentecost. So when they prayed, the Holy Ghost came in great power and she commenced speaking in an unknown tongue. This made all the Bible school hungry, and three nights afterward, twelve students received the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, and cloven tongues could be seen upon their heads. They then had an experience that measured up with the second chapter of Acts, and could understand the first chapter of Ephesians.

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.”

Let's read about some of the signs, wonders and miracles that took place in their following meetings.

The ASUZA PAPERS says;

“Many have laid aside their glasses and had their eyesight perfectly restored. The deaf have had their hearing restored. A man was healed of asthma of twenty years standing. Many have been healed of heart trouble and lung trouble.

The Lord has given the gift of writing in unknown languages, also the gift of playing on instruments.

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.

All over this city, God has been setting homes on fire and coming down and melting and saving and sanctifying and baptizing with the Holy Ghost. Many churches have been praying for Pentecost, and Pentecost has come. The question is now, will they accept it? God has answered in a way they did not look for. He came in a humble way as of old, born in a manger.”

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This movement of the Holy Spirit began in a home with a hand full of believers that were hungry for the same Baptism of the Holy Spirit that was given to the early disciples. That same Baptism of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues and prophesying is available today to those who believe and have been born again by the Holy Spirit. Some Christians would argue and say that they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, without the evidence of speaking in tongues, but as we read in the following scriptures it's clear that being baptised in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues was a separate experience that occurred after the disciples already received the Holy Spirit when Jesus had breathed on them in **John 20:19-23** when they became born-again.

Acts 2:1-4 says; “1 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.”

Acts 2:38-47 says; “38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [a]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 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.” 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this [b]perverse generation.” 41 Then those who [c]gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ [d]doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and [e]sold their possessions and goods, and divided[f] them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [g]to the church daily those who were being saved.”

The ASUZA PAPERS say the following:

“The meeting was then transferred to Azusa Street, and since then multitudes have been coming. The meetings begin about ten o'clock in the morning and can hardly stop before ten or twelve at night, and sometimes two or three in the morning, because so many are seeking, and some are slain under the power of God. People are seeking three times a day at the altar and row after row of seats have to be emptied and filled with seekers. We cannot tell how many people have been saved, and sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost, and healed of all manner of sicknesses. Many are speaking in new tongues, and some are on their way to the foreign fields, with the gift of the language. We are going on to get more of the power of God.”

We have to keep in perspective that this outpouring of the Holy Spirit that began as a prayer meeting in the house on Bonnie Brae Street, did not continue to grow in a large well-established Church but rather the contrary.

The ASUZA PAPERS says;

“The meetings are held in an old Methodist church that had been converted in part into a tenement house, leaving a larger unplastered, barn-like room on the ground floor. Here about a dozen congregated each day, holding meetings on Bonnie Brae in the evening.

In a short time God began to manifest His power and soon the building could not contain the people. Now the meetings continue all day and into the night and the fire is kindling all over the city and surrounding towns.

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Proud, well-dressed preachers come in to "investigate." Soon their high looks are replaced with wonder, then conviction comes, and very often you will find them in a short time wallowing on the dirty floor, asking God to forgive them and make them as little children."

God delights in using what would be deemed the foolishness of this world and use it to confound the wise. He did it in the Book of Acts with the birth of the early church, he did it at Azusa Street, and is now doing it all over the world. This is why it's very important not to despise your humble beginnings in ministry, because it's usually the underdog that's deemed the foolish in the eyes of the religious world that God will use for his glory.

Many Christians have a form of Godliness, but are void the Holy Spirit's power in their lives, because they are not willing to give up the secular lifestyle; be it movies, music, relationships, careers, entertainment venues, or other various areas of idolatry that the Holy Spirit convicts them of as sins, and as a result, lose out on receiving not only the power of the Holy Spirit but the Gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in **1 Corinthians 12 and 14**.

Sanctification is not to be some long-drawn-out religious process, but rather is a work of the Holy Spirit that convicts us of our sins that leads to confession and forgiveness and as a result, a change of lifestyle occurs; out with the old man and in with the new man.

A person can be saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues in a short time of prayer at the altar, which shows that it's a work of the Holy Spirit alone and He knows what the newborn Christian is going to need to fulfill the call of God on their life.

Religious bullies will always try to discredit the operation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that the Christian underdog is operating in and will behave just like the parodical sons' angry brother, who out of envy and jealousy, did not welcome him home. How many religious leaders are doing that to new born Christians today, who, at the altar are being filled with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues? They get sanctified at the altar, filled with the Holy Spirit, once sinners now set free, but pastors won't welcome them home out of jealousy and envy. When they step out in their call, the pastors don't welcome them home, but in anger they point out the sinful side of them, how they used to live and can't forget all the hurt they caused, regardless that now that they're born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, operating in the Gifts of the Spirit and doing good. Their hearts door is closed out of envy.

The AZUSA PAPERS continue to say;

"In the meetings, it is noticeable that while some in the rear are opposing and arguing, others are at the altar falling down under the power of God and feasting on the good things of God. The two spirits are always manifest, but no opposition can kill, no power in earth or hell can stop God's work, while He has consecrated instruments through which to work.

In about an hour and a half, a young man was converted, sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost, and spoke with tongues. He was also healed from consumption, so that when he visited the doctor he pronounced his lungs sound. He has received many tongues, also the gift of prophecy, and writing in a number of foreign languages, and has a call to a foreign field.

A little girl about twelve years of age was sanctified in a Sunday afternoon children's meeting, and in the evening meeting she was baptized with the Holy Ghost. When she was filled those standing near remarked, "Who can doubt such a clear case of God's power."

It's interesting how they say that the two spirits of arguing and opposing, were always operational, and how true is that today. Today, these people would be called religious bullies, who stand and speak against the baptism in the Holy Spirit, are angry, don't accept it out of jealousy and envy because they didn't receive it, and because

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they didn't get it, they're going to do whatever it takes to make your life, the call and election on your life miserable. It's like the gift you got, they're trying to take away from you. The one thing that seems so small and menial, they never got, and they want to steal it from you and bully you however they can.

A good example of Religious Bully's, can be found in **Acts 4:13-20**; *"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."*

God loves the uneducated and untrained Christian Underdogs and will always help them when they're being bullied by religious leaders. Again, as we read in verse 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."*

Christian, do those around you realize that you've been with Jesus? If so, maybe that's why they're trying to shut you up and shut you down. Maybe you didn't go through all the education and training that they did, and so now they're jealous and trying to shut you down. Are religious leaders and pastors threatening you because you're speaking in the name of Jesus, because you're Baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and signs, wonders and miracles are following you as you preach the gospel?

Do you see how these religious leaders were, 'commanding' them? Jesus commanded them to do one thing and now these religious leaders are commanding them to do another! It's sad that these religious bullies are commanding Christians to not preach and teach in the name of Jesus yet at the same time today, religious leaders are welcoming all the false teaching out there which says that all religions lead to God. They're offended with Jesus because He said that He is the only way, truth and life.

Christian, you have to speak more, be bolder to talk about Jesus, pray for the sick, cast out devils, speak in new tongues, do not be ashamed of the gospel. Be bold as a lion. Talk to your neighbours, co-workers, family etc, about Jesus. You'd be surprised at how many people want to know about Him. They'll be the ones asking you, 'how was your Sunday?', because they didn't have a Jesus Sunday. With hopelessness, sickness, disease, destruction in their lives, you have the answer and it should be evident to them that you've been with Jesus.

The ASUZA PAPERS says;

"Jesus was too large for the synagogues. He preached outside because there was not room for him inside. This Pentecostal movement is too large to be confined in any denomination or sect. It works outside, drawing all together in one bond of love, one church, one body of Christ."

Acts 5:12-16 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*

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cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.”

It's interesting to see that they're all together in Solomon's Porch, yet there is a whole group of believers that won't join them, yet they esteemed them highly. It's sad that Christians won't dare join you, associate with you or be with you, yet will esteem you in their conversations, because they know you've been with Jesus! Peter had been with Jesus, baptized in the Holy Spirit and now signs, wonders and miracles are following his ministry. It should be the same with each Christian today.

There are a lot of people in the world today that are very sick, tormented by unclean spirits who need healing. Christian, you're the vessel today, you who are Spirit filled and who have been with Jesus, He wants to use you to bring healing and cast out the unclean spirits. You're the one. Jesus is here working through you, using your hands and your mouth. You're one that should be operating in the gifts of the Spirit for the edification of the body of Christ. If you're doing this, no wonder the bullies want to shut you down, and just like the early church, the more they tried to shut it down through persecution, the more it grew. The more they tried to shut down the revival and outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Azusa Street, the more it grew and went all over the world. Today it's the same, the more they try to shut down the work of the Holy Spirit, the more the church will grow.

The ASUZA PAPERS says;

“About 150 people in Los Angeles, more than on the day of Pentecost, have received the gift of the Holy Ghost and the Bible evidence, the gift of tongues, and many have been saved and sanctified, nobody knows how many. People are seeking at the altar three times a day and it is hard to close at night on account of seekers and those who are under the power of God”

Again, these people had been with Jesus, been filled with the Holy Spirit who gave them power. Jesus said that they'd be persecuted because of Him. Jesus loves the Christian underdog and he'll roll up his sleeves to defend and protect you from the bullies who try to persecute you. Gods not mocked Christian or non-Christian bully, what you sow, you'll reap somewhere. It would be good for a Christian bully to get off their high horse, get on their knees and repent, or as at Azusa Street, get down on the dirty floor and cry out for repentance, with uneducated and untrained men and women who have been with Jesus, be forgiven and baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Get filled with the one you're preaching and speaking against, be filled with the Holy Spirit and power.

Please click to read the prophecy by Pastor Richard during this church service.