

Acts Chapter 29 – Part 3

“What a Difference Holy Spirit Makes”

October 17, 2021

Welcome to The Well where the life giving water Jesus gives never runs dry!

Check out our new website – will be updating as we go along so go check it out regularly. A Facebook page is also in the works

We are not a church, but a ministry focused on teaching the word of God, applying it and living that out in your everyday life. This is not a place where you walk in, sing a few songs, have a gifted speaker inspire you with stories and maybe a scripture or two then send you home and have “done your church duty for the week”. No, we want to help you learn how to live out the word of God. We may include videos, slides and stories but we also **interact and discuss** what we just learned so that when we walk out our door you have a better understanding and tools you need to navigate this crazy world we live in..... God's way. We have another saying around here, *“it's not about you getting into the Bible, but about the Bible getting into you!”*

We want to utilize this building to **host groups and studies** and gatherings to “equip you for life”.

To equip you for everyday life according to the way these Holy Scriptures instruct us as well as preparing you for eternal life.

Our current studies are on Tuesday eves at 6-7:30pm Reading thru the Bible/discussion

Thursday at 6-7:30pm we are starting a new study Self-Centeredness: the source of all Grief. This study will teach you that love, joy, and peace can be yours no matter what situations you face.

So let me do a **little bit of housekeeping** here. WE are so proud how Papa God has provided this new facility, so we all want to take really good care of it.

video: Good God Almighty

We've been in a series **titled Acts 29**. If you notice there is not a written Acts 29 in the Bible.... we are Acts 29! We are to continue the story. The Gospel story, the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And if we are going to continue the story, then we need to know how the story started and what we are to carry on with.

God has given us an **instruction book** of how to carry on this story. We've been given His own Words, the Holy Bible – a book of compiled sacred writings that are God-breathed, written by man's hands. It's divided into two parts; Old Testament – the story of a nation, New Testament – the story of a man.

The nation was God's way of bringing the Man—Jesus Christ—into the world. I've heard it said that the Old Testament is Christ concealed, New Testament is Christ revealed.

WE started out our series discovering that “Jesus is a really big deal”! I mean, come on, **our timeline is based on Him**. His virgin birth, sinless life, miracle working power, His sacrifice and death on that cross then raising from the dead was so significant that it split our time in half! BC before Christ – AD after His birth.

This story that we are to tell is about the Trinity, the Godhead, 3 in one, God the Father, Jesus the Son and Holy Spirit. We know that Father God is the creator and sustain-er of all things. Jesus is the Son that gave His life so that we could have eternal life, reconnected to God. And we are going to spend the next 3 weeks getting to know Holy Spirit, and why we need Him so that we can carry on the story, writing our part of Acts 29!

Side note here; I think there are 2 Scriptures that sum up God's part and our part in this story;

John 3:16-17 and **2 Tim. 3:16-17** (isn't it cool the way God can put this book together and line up the words that are in two different books but use the same chapter and verse?! LOL He is just soo amazing!) God's part, our part. “to do every good work”, that's our Acts 29

Today's teaching is titled “**What a difference Holy Spirit makes!**” So let's dive in and see why.

Last week we learned that HS can be described as a **layered being**. If you took a book and each page was a transparent layer of itself, that is how we could describe Him. Unlimited layers of Himself distributed not only in every believer but everywhere at all times. This is how He knows everything.(**example** from the movie “Next”)

We also talked about last week how we also are a **3 part being**, body, soul and spirit. And how we are born with a spirit that is not connected, but dead to God. And when we say yes to Jesus **we become** “reborn”in our spirit. The old spirit passes away and we are infused with a layer of Holy Spirit. A new creation! “The old is gone, the new has come!”

We also mentioned last week how an important part of this “becoming new” is **being baptized**. Defined as “being immersed” and a “spiritual cleansing”. When we say yes to Jesus, making Him our Lord and Savior, HS moves in cleansing us of our sin nature making us of divine nature.

We believe that the bible teaches that there are **3 baptisms**, so we are going to go more in depth about that here today to give you a better understanding.

There is the baptisms of repentance, water and Holy Spirit

Repentance – Dictionary.com defines repent as – to feel sorrow for sin or fault as to be disposed to change one's life for the better. This is a two part action. (1) to recognize that I am a person who sins. I can't seem to do what's right, I have regret for my actions (2) then I regret the way I act so much that I turn away from that action and choose to behave differently. Let's look

at a short list of things the Bible tells us that we need to repent from. **Gal 5:19-21** Sound like who we used to be, or some of what we may still be participating in! So much of this list our world around us promote and call good! And you will not inherit the kingdom of God if you do these things? I think God is pretty serious about us getting these things out of our lives. And what did He give us to be freed from these things?

Biblical repentance means that (1) I recognize that I have been born into sin-nature and as a result of that nature I have repeatedly chosen to do the wrong things over and over. I realize that I am separated from God because of that nature and my choices to sin. I recognize that I have put my selfish motives in a higher priority than I put God and His ways. I am so remorseful of those choices I humbly submit myself before God and admit that I am a sinner and am in need of being saved by Him.

(2) I choose to change my thoughts and actions by turning toward God's ways and living obediently to Him.

When we do that, a supernatural phenomenon happens and our spirit that was separated from God now becomes baptized "or immersed" by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The result from that "immersion" should be a change of the heart, attitude and action. There should be a growing desire to not do what you used to do and want to change your ways, to know God more and study His word. To fellowship with other believers and walk out the fruit of the Spirit. **Gal 5:22-25**

That's the 1st baptism of repentance.

Baptism of Water – As an outward expression of the inward change, we publicly have our bodies "immersed" in water representing the cleansing of our spirits from death to life . (**Eph. 2:4**) Celebrating with family, friends and our church family of the life altering decision we made to follow Jesus!

At salvation, which is when you say yes to Jesus and that supernatural phenomenon occurs and your spirit is replaced by Holy Spirit. You are now 1/3 divine nature! You are no longer bound by the chains of the original sin by Adam and Eve and no longer bound to the flesh to remain in it dictates and desires that it lusts after. Let's take a look at one passage of Scripture that Paul teaches us in the Book of **Romans 5:21-6:7**

and as we wrap our heads around this "dying to self and start believing and living out that "the power of sin" no longer controls us, our soul then learns to surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit. When our soul (mind will & emotions) gets into agreement with "we are no longer slaves to sin" we are learning to become subjected to the **Lordship of Jesus Christ**

Did you know Lord means? "owner". When we said yes to Jesus, He now owns us. We becomes "slaves to Jesus Christ". It's no longer about us and our agenda, it's about His. He is not here to serve us, we are here to serve Him. Our wants and needs go out the window, they don't matter anymore. "whoa! Wait a minute Ellen! I'm not sure I want to sign up for that! Isn't the

Lord about healing my hurts, habits and hang ups?" Yes, that happens as a result of you surrendering your life to Him. When He moves into your spirit, all that junk has to move out! All that junk that happened to you and that you did to yourself and what you did to others is supposed to die, and His new life moves in. Believe me! Holy Spirit wants to do a whole lot more in you than you want Him to. And as your mind get renewed and grows into this understanding the soul becomes "immersed" because it is out of the way so more of the Holy Spirit can manifest itself out! You are then ready for the next baptism.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit– Is one of the most controversial subjects in the "Church" today! So I'd like to take the rest of our time here together today to explain what we here at "The Well" believe.

The baptism of the HS is not a salvation issue. **You are made new at salvation**, and as you remain connected to Jesus and continue to grow and become more like Him, you will spend eternity forever with Him. If that is all you choose to receive then that is all you'll get. And you will live this Christian life here on earth mostly broke, busted, disgusted, depressed and sick. Not looking at all different than anyone else who doesn't know Christ. Oh, you'll go to church on Sundays, you'll even attend a bible study now and then. You may even put a bumper sticker on your car and listen to Christian music. But if you aren't living "this life and life to the full" that Jesus Christ died to give you then you are missing out on the best that He has to offer, baptism of the HS.

John the Baptist was the forerunner to Christ and his message was; **Luke 3:3 & 16**

Right here John was foretelling of the baptism of repentance and the baptism of water. But he goes on to mention that Jesus was coming and would **baptize us with the HS and fire!** As we read in Acts 2 that is exactly what happened! **Acts 2:1-4** Wow! There was obviously an immediate difference. What looked like flames or tongues of fire settled on each one of them! And they started speaking in a language they didn't even know! You may ask, does that still happen today? Absolutely! We may not see literal flames of fire settle on a person (tho in the spirit that may very well happen). I've heard of people saying what feels like fire go thru them when they are baptized by the HS. As we will read about next week these disciples that waited for the promise Jesus foretold them about, everything changed for them. They became empowered to witness boldly and perform healing, signs, wonders and miracles. And 3,000 people believed and were baptized that day!!

What does it mean to be baptized by fire today? Have you ever seen someone **on fire for God?** They are bouncing around all full of joy, can't contain how much they love Jesus and what all He's done in their lives. They want to pray for you and lay their hands on you and cast out demons and heal you! They are the ones that will give up their agenda and serve the Lord with their whole heart and their whole bodies. They usually just glow and not one person is a stranger to them. They believe in the whole bible and do their very best to live that out every moment of their every day.

Now, just because you are baptized in the HS does not mean you are perfect and you don't make mistakes. It doesn't even mean that you don't still carry around issues in your thinking and your behaviors. No one is perfect, we all mess up. But with the baptism of the HS there is a difference, a fire, an energy, a determination for more and more of HIM to reflect out of their lives. They do their best to love like Jesus loves, do what Jesus did and diligently go after fulfilling all that God has planned and purposed for their lives

I've heard it said that being **baptized in the HS** and just being saved is like the difference between driving a Volkswagen vs. a Cadillac. Both cars will get you there, but one has a lot more bells and whistles and blessings on your way. **Some of those "bells"** that HS provide is courage, boldness, confidence, insight ability and authority. Just to mention a few.

and under the hood of this Cadillac is the power to carry out these attributes.

There are so many great benefits that come from the baptism of the HS and the gifts of the Spirit that we are going to take the next two weeks to talk more about them.

What is a take away from today and how can you begin to implement that info into your every day?