

The Baptism In The Holy Spirit

April 10, 2005

Acts 1:1-8 (NKJV)

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, [2] until the day in which 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 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 witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

When the **Day of Pentecost** had fully come, they were all 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 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.

I am going to speak to you today on a very important subject: The Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I have talked about this experience many times in the past but I am sure there are a lot of you who have never heard me speak on this subject. Therefore, I need to speak to you about it so that you will understand what it is and seek to experience it.

The first four books of the New Testament are referred to as **“The Four Gospels”**. The first one was written by **Matthew**; The second one was written by **Mark**; The third one was written by **Luke**; And the fourth one was written by **John**. Each of them give a history of the life and ministry of Jesus while He was here on the earth.

After the “The Four Gospels” comes the **Book of Acts**. It gives us the history of what happened immediately after the death and resurrection of Jesus and the beginning of the church.

The Book of Acts was written by Luke; The same man who wrote the Gospel of Luke. Luke was the only Gentile to write in the New Testament. Every other writer of the New Testament was a Jew. Paul called Luke “the beloved physician” because he was a doctor before he was called to be an apostle.

The Book of Acts where the Book of Luke ends. Verse one says.....

Acts 1:1 (NKJV)

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Luke is referring to what he wrote in his gospel about all that Jesus did and taught while He was here on earth. Now he continues the story.

Acts 1:2-3 (NKJV)

until the day in which 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 infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Luke tells us that after the resurrection Jesus met with the apostles and taught them for 40 days. There was a period of 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus. During those 40 days Jesus taught a graduate course to His disciples pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Those 40 days literally changed the disciples of Jesus forever. They saw Him with their own eyes. They ate with Him. They talked with Him. They became absolutely convinced that He was the Messiah!

By the end of those 40 days no one, and I mean no one, could make them doubt the resurrection. They knew that they knew that He was alive! They knew that all He said was true. At the end of those 40 days Jesus commanded His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the father.

Acts 1:4-5 (NKJV)

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."

No doubt the disciples were anxious to return to Galilee but Jesus **commanded** them to stay in Jerusalem. He knew that they were not yet ready to do the job that they were going to have to do. They were saved. They had been born again. They had been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit but they needed something else. Something that would empower them to do the job that He was ordaining them to do. He told them....John baptized you with water....and by the way, everyone needs to be baptized with water.....but He said, wait here in Jerusalem for a few days and you **shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

Notice....according to Jesus....they had not yet been **baptized** with the Holy Spirit. They had received the Holy Spirit but they had not been baptized with the Holy spirit.

When Jesus appeared to them after His resurrection, John tells us.....

John 20:21-22 (NKJV)

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.**

They had been baptized in water by John, and they had been breathed on by Jesus and told to receive the Holy Spirit, but they had not yet been baptized in the Holy Spirit. When John baptized Jesus he said to those who were there.....

John 1:33-34 (NKJV)

I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, **this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.**' [34] And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Jesus said.....

Luke 24:49 (NKJV)

Behold, I send the **Promise of My Father** upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

What was He talking about when He said "The Promise of My Father"? We find the answer in the Book of Joel.....

Joel 2:28-29 (NKJV)

"And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.
[29] And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

That was the promise that Jesus was talking about. We know that because after the Holy Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached a great message and he began by saying.....

Acts 2:15-16 (NKJV)

For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. [16] **But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

I read a commentary on the Book of Acts that was written by a very well known pastor in California and when he commented on Acts 1:5 he wrote in big bold letters with a star beside it..... "The promise of Acts 1:4-5 does not apply to you!"

He went on to write..... At that point the apostles were waiting for the first coming of the Holy Spirit. It was a unique, transitional period of time. From

then on the Spirit of God indwells every believer from the moment of salvation. As Romans 8:9 declares “ Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” A person without the Holy Spirit isn’t even a Christian. So the baptism of the Spirit became the pattern of all believers at the moment of conversion.”

With all due respect to the man who wrote that commentary and to all others who teach that, I must respectfully say that they are wrong. There is a difference between the salvation experience and the baptism of the Holy Spirit experience.

He is correct when he says that salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit and a person without the Holy Spirit isn’t a Christian. But the Bible is very clear that there is something else that Jesus wants us to experience that is subsequent to conversion. It’s called the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the most common evidence of it is speaking in other tongues.

Jesus commanded His disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Why? Because He knew they in no way could build the church. It was going to take the supernatural power of God to build the church! So He told them to wait in Jerusalem until they got it. He said....

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

He said, “The only way the church is going to be built is through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

So they waited in Jerusalem for ten days.....

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all 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 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.

After that experience, Peter immediately went out and began to witness to those in Jerusalem and 3000 people were converted that day. It wasn't because Peter was a great preacher. That was his first sermon! He was a fisherman. He hadn't been taught how to preach. **What was it that caused people to be converted to Christianity that day?** It was the power of the Holy Spirit that Peter had received in the upper room.

The Church was born in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost and it experienced phenomenal growth.

Acts 2:41 (NKJV)

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Acts 4:4 (NKJV)

However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the **men** came to be about five thousand.

If there were five thousand men who were saved that day there had to be at least that many women and again that many children, so there was more than fifteen thousand.

Acts 5:14 (NKJV)

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, **multitudes** of both men and women....

Wow! That's phenomenal growth! What was it that caused such growth? It was the power of the Holy Spirit! **We need that same power today!**

2 Tim. 3:1 (NKJV)

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
He went on to say.....

2 Tim. 3:5 (NKJV)

having a form of godliness but **denying its power**. And from such people turn away!

Many churches today have a form of godliness but they deny the power of the Holy Spirit. They refuse to let any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used in the church service. If someone gives a message in other tongues they are asked to leave.

I remember some years ago when Pastor Wiggins was baptized in the Holy Spirit. He was the pastor of a church at the time. And the members of his church wanted to kick him out of the church. Why? What crime had he committed? He simply was endowed with more power but they didn't want anything to do with it.

My friends, we need the power of the Holy Spirit!

Psychology will not do. Counseling will not do. Drugs will not do. Clever preaching will not do. Beautiful auditoriums and coffee shops and bowling alleys and whatever other church facilities we build will do nothing to change a person's life! It takes the power of the Holy Spirit!

People who are bound by drugs need more than counseling, they need the power of the Holy Spirit to set them free!

People with cancer need more than chemotherapy, they need the power of the Holy Spirit to heal them!

People who are lost need more than good advice, they need a new life and the only way that's possible is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

People who are hooked on pornography need more than will power, they need God's super-natural power to set them free.

We need the power of the Holy Spirit to do the work of God!

The disciples discovered that on the Day of Pentecost and after that they began to ask people if they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts, Chapter 8, we read how Philip preached about Christ in the City of Samaria. People were saved, their lives were changed, and they were baptized in water. The Holy Spirit had done a work in their lives.

Yet when Peter and John went to Samaria they laid their hands on them and they had another wonderful experience.

Acts 8:12-17 (NKJV)

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. [13] Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

[14] Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, [15] who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. [16] For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [17] Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

In the 9th Chapter of Acts we read of Paul's experience.

Acts 9:3-6 (NKJV)

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. [4] Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" [5] And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." [6] So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

What happened to Paul on the road to Damascus was the work of the Holy Spirit. His life was changed. But he needed something else if he was going to be able to do what God was calling him to do.

Acts 9:17 (NKJV)

And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Let's look at one more.

Acts 19:1-6 (NKJV)

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples [2] he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." [3] And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." [4] Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." [5] When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6] And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

These were people who were baptized by John. They believed the message that John preached which was a message of repentance and a message that they should believe on Jesus as the Messiah. Then Paul baptized them in the name of the Lord.

After that...Paul laid his hands on them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

I have shown you several examples in the Bible where after people were saved were baptized in the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a different experience than being born again. There are a lot of people who have been born again who have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Maybe you are one of those people.

I want you to know that you can be baptized in the Holy Spirit if you want to be. It is for you! Peter said.....

Acts 2:39 (NKJV)

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."

If you want to learn more about it I invite you to come back tonight. I am going to continue this message and we are going to pray with those of you

who desire to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. I want you to come back tonight expecting to receive.
Give invitation.