

Fisher's Foundations RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

Lesson 6

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CLASS:

This lesson has a three-fold purpose; to lead the student into a clear understanding of, the practical function of, and also into the actual New Testament experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

**"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess;
but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).**

INTRO:

Some sin by getting drunk on wine and others sin by not living filled with the Holy Spirit. We need Him so desperately! Nothing happens between God and Man here on this earth, that doesn't happen through the person of the Holy Spirit! The Christian life is impossible to live without Him. Christ fulfilled His mission and lived a sinless life by the power of the Spirit. And Jesus didn't even give us an option with this, He commands us to be filled. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a subsequent spiritual experience with the Holy Spirit, in addition to salvation—for the purpose of empowering the believer for ministry! But this initial baptism of power should become and lead to an ongoing evangelistic lifestyle, with other important infillings. God wants to control every part of your life through His divine Spirit! The terms "Holy Spirit" and "Holy Ghost" refer to this same person who desires to become your intimate friend from this day on.

There are two extremes in dealing with, or teaching about the Holy Spirit that you need to be aware of:

1. Many people expand their theology (and consequently their practice) to go beyond the Scriptures concerning the Holy Spirit – seeking those things that are outside of what God wants His children experiencing according to His Word. [i.e., Have you ever observed any scary preachers on TV that communicate with a spooky, high pitched vibrato—you know, that breathy-mystical, religious preacher-voice? Maybe you've seen some people “ministering” by pushing others down on the ground, or throwing their coat at them or by throwing so called “anointing balls” at the people. Perhaps you've seen Christians rolling around on the ground, barking, or making other barnyard animal calls, or simply jerking spasmodically]. Many Christians believe the myth that when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will totally lose control of your faculties. But listen, one of the expressions of the fruit of the Spirit is self-control. He isn't the type to take back what He gives to you. ***“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance”*** (Rom. 11:29). What the Spirit does is winsome and no one is more seeker-sensitive than Him. No soul-winner longs to draw sinners to Jesus more than the Holy Spirit.
2. Others don't go far enough due to fear (more than likely, fear of those in the group above), bad teaching, and ignorance. They fail to seek those things that *are* Scriptural. Rather than erring by allow their experience to set their doctrine, they allow their non-experience to set it. They basically reduce their theology down to their lack of Biblical understanding. The Bible things that God really wants them to have, enjoy and aggressively utilize to build up His Kingdom, remain outside the circle of their aggregate life-experiences.

"It is easier for a man to breathe without air than it is for a Christian to live without the Holy Spirit." –D.L. Moody

I. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. The Holy Spirit draws people to Jesus as Christians pray and share the Good News, (John 16:8-11, 14).
- B. Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit when Christ is received, (Titus 3:5; John 3:3-5).
- C. The Holy Spirit indwells and communions with every believer, (1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:9).
- D. The Holy Spirit seals the believer. (A seal is an insignia of possession. Therefore the believer is not his/her own, they are God's property. See Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4). The Holy Spirit is kind of like your engagement ring with Jesus. He's your earnest pledge, first romantic installment and guarantee of better things to come.
- E. The Spirit infills and refills believers, (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4).
- F. Believers are guided by the Holy Spirit, (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16).
- G. The Spirit equips and empowers the believer to be and give a positive witness for Jesus. He also helps you train others for witnessing, (Galatians 5:22, 23; Romans 8:2; Acts 1:8).

Q&A 1. Write down some works of the Holy Spirit that you've experienced in your own life.

II. PROPHECY CONCERNING PENTECOST

- A. The Prophet Joel foretold of Pentecost saying, **"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. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days"** (Joel 2:28, 29).
- B. Ezekiel foresaw this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. **"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them"** (Ezekiel 36:26, 27).

Q&A 2. Name six groups from Joel 2:28, 29, on whom the Holy Spirit would fall.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

III. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR TODAY!

- a.) Like on the birthday of the Church on the day of Pentecost. **"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"** (Acts 2:4).
- b.) Like in Samaria. **"Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit"** (Acts 8:17).
- c.) Like with Paul. **"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"** (Acts 9:17).
- d.) Like with the Gentiles. **"For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God"** (Acts 10:46).
- e.) Like with the Ephesians. **"And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied"** (Acts 19:6).

There are a total of seven instances of the baptism of the Holy Spirit to be seen in the book of Acts. And we have a total of four of the seven instances in Acts where the recipients clearly spoke in tongues, and three instances where the Bible remains silent about what happened when the believers received. According to what's recorded in the Word, you can see that most people who were filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts spoke in tongues as *one of the initial signs* of this empowering experience.

Look at the rhetorical questions that Paul asks in 1 Corinthians 12:30 *“Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?”* Now any time we have a rhetorical question in the Greek that is asked in the negative, the answer is always in the negative—no! In our culture, it would be like asking your child in the store if he would like a spanking. The answer is obviously no. The fact is that not all Christians speak in tongues. Is this gift available for all to receive by faith? Perhaps, I don’t know. The Bible doesn’t say. It’s likely for a Christian to have more than one gift, but not all of the gifts.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is definitely for all! But thousands of alleged Christians believe that if you don’t speak in tongues, you don’t have the Holy Spirit and therefore you are not saved. This is false! Some believe that you can’t be baptized in the Holy Spirit if you didn’t speak in tongues, but there is no Scripture to back this up. Personally, I didn’t receive the gift of tongues until weeks after I was baptized in the Spirit. Speaking in tongues is not the only evidence, but it is an evidence of the Holy Spirit Baptism,

In the book of Acts we see two main Holy Spirit Baptisms: 1.) In Acts 2 involving the Jews, 2.) In Acts 10:44-46 involving the Gentiles.

I believe that eleven of Christ’s original apostles were actually born again after the cross and before Pentecost when they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. **“And when he (Jesus) had said this, he breathed on them (the disciples), and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost”** (Jn. 20:22).

Many people have asked, “What is ‘the evidence’ of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?”

1.) **Love** is a primary evidence—for the fruit of the Spirit is love. There’s no comma in the Greek after that word love in Gal. 5:22. The comma comes after the word peace.” The words that follow simply express the different aspects of agape love. This corresponds with 1 Corinthians 13.

2.) Having **power to witness** is another primary evidence (Acts 1:8).

The Bible says, **“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 1:8).

You can witness without loving, but you can’t love without witnessing.

The two go together. Whatever you do regarding people, without the underlying motive being that of love is SIN. The Bible says, “The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we [do] toward you”(1Thess. 3:12). It says, **“God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him”** (1Jn. 4:16). Whatever is not done from faith also falls short. The Bible says, **“But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin”** (Rom. 14:23).

3.) In Acts 10 they saw Gentiles **speaking in tongues** as “an initial evidence.”

4.) In Acts 19 they saw them **speaking in tongues and prophesying** as “evidences.”

5.) Paul initially received **a healing** (See Act 9:18). Scales fell off his eyes.

Paul asked the Ephesian believers **"Have ye received the Holy Spirit"...** *'since'* (kjv [or *'when'* nasb / niv]) **ye believed?"** Now the Greek will support both of these words in this same verse and either way... both words support another or subsequent experience with the Holy Spirit. I wonder, did Paul notice they were **lacking love**, fervency, fiery zeal, joy, enthusiasm or that powerful dynamic? Was there a deadness about these Ephesian believers (see Acts 19:2)?

In Acts 8:14-17, when the Samaritans received this experience there is no mention made about tongues; however, Simon, a sorcerer, saw something happen that he desired to purchase. In view of the evidence on the other occasions when the Holy Spirit came, it seems apparent that tongues might have attracted Simon's attention. Finally, when Paul received the Spirit, there is no mention at that point that he spoke in tongues, but later he said, **"I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all"** (1 Corinthians 14:18).

Read John 4:14, to see a word picture of salvation. One day Jesus was talking to a lost Samaritan woman at a well about salvation. He was giving her an object lesson she'd never forget, saying, **"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."** Jesus was talking about a personal thing, eternal life. A well is a contained water source and some of them can get fairly dried out, if not maintained. The water doesn't normally overflow above ground level, like with a spring – salvation is a personal thing. I also find it interesting that wells need to be cleaned out from time to time. So, Jesus used a well to represent the refreshing of an individual's regeneration.

John 7:37-39 shows us a picture of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which any "believer" could receive. Rivers (plural) give out more water than any one person can drink. Jesus wants to satisfy the masses with supernatural power.

"Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." God wants rivers of living water to flow out of your life, because after he's refreshed you, He wants to refresh many others through you (see MK. 16:15).

IV. DO I HAVE TO SPEAK IN TONGUES? NO... YOU GET TO!

- A. **Tongues, for the most part is a despised gift.** Ministers risk their ecclesiastical futures and job security by exercising this gift. This gift assists us in arriving at that place spiritually where it doesn't matter what people think of us. God's approval is all that counts. The world has often called the beautiful things of God, foolishness. Some ignorant people who speak in tongues have often foolishly and wrongly applied God's Word in areas. **Let's be wise and know the Word better!**
- B. **The gift of tongues enhances the important ministry of intercession.**

V. ONE MUST HAVE BIBLICAL CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THIS SPIRIT BAPTISM

1. **Because it is Biblical (Acts 1:8).**
2. **Because it is needed for abundant Christian living (Ephesians 5:17,18).**
3. **Because it is applicable and relevant for today (Acts 2:38,29).**
4. **Because it is an experience beyond salvation (Acts 9:17).**
5. **Because it is marked by praise (Acts 2:11; 2:46,47; 10:44-46).**
6. **Because it is beneficial to any believer (Romans 8:26,27).**

-
- A. You should **have a hunger for** the fullness of the Spirit (Matthew 5:6).
 - B. You should **ask to receive** (Luke 11:13).
 - C. You should **expect to receive** (Luke 11:13).
 - D. You should **act in faith**.

It's really simple to receive. Just relax in faith (there is no reason for you needing to get worked up emotionally). Simple yielding to God and taking the time to vocalize the "wonderful works of God" will bring the answer. This baptism is not something that must be received after many years of tarrying, struggle and striving to live for God. Why? That's just religious according to what one can earn and God isn't religious. He wants Christians to freely receive the Holy Spirit at the beginning of their life of witnessing to the world, not at the end.

VI. THE ROLE OF TONGUES IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- A. Tongues edify—they build up the Christian spiritually (1 Corinthians 14:4).
- B. Tongues are used to enrich personal prayer (1 Corinthians 14:14; 13:1 & Romans 8:26).
- C. Tongues are used to rightfully glorify God (1 Corinthians 14:15, 16).

Q&A 3. List the different roles in which tongues are used in your life personally or maybe in a friend's life. Basically explain your prayer life and if applicable, list some ways you desire the gift of tongues to be utilized in your life.

VII. EXCEL WITH BOTH THE GIFTS AND THE FRUIT IN BALANCE, LIKE JESUS

- A. Gifts of the Spirit are supernatural endowments given by the Holy Spirit as He wills to members of the Body of Christ. All Christians possess at least one gift of the Spirit (see Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:14).
- B. The fruit of the Spirit is the Christ-like character released in the life of the believer by the same Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22,23).

Jesus' ministry had a balance of the fruit and the gifts combined together and that's why He was such a winsome representative for His Father. This same comeliness and balance is what He wants for your ministry, as well.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14, emphasis added).

C.H. Spurgeon said:

“I believe, brethren, that when ever the church of God declines, one of the most effectual ways of reviving her is to preach much truth concerning the Holy Spirit. After all, He is the very breath of the church. Where the Spirit of God is, is power. If the Spirit be withdrawn, then the vitality of the godliness begins to decline and we are backbiting. Let us turn to the Spirit of God crying, ‘Quicken thou me in thy way.’ If we sorrowfully perceive that any church is growing lukewarm, be it our prayer that the Holy Spirit may work graciously for its revival. Let us return to the Lord. Let us seek again to be baptized into the Holy Spirit and into fire, and we shall yet, again, behold the wonderful works of the Lord. He sets before us an open door and if we enter not, we ourselves are to be blamed.”