

THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 10: LUKE, PAUL, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Main Idea: Attacks have been thrown against the message of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is God's answer to the needs of people to walk in His power. For every call to repentance and every Scripture that points out the plan of salvation, the epistles have an equal portion of Scripture admonishing every believer to be filled with the Spirit and to walk with the Spirit in a life of fruitful service. If the purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to empower men to carry on God's work, then this power is essential in your life. While there are many perspectives available for understanding the Baptism in Holy Spirit, this study focuses on the Pentecostal view and why its interpretation of Scripture regarding the Baptism is the correct one.

Scripture: Luke 1:1-4; 11:13; 12:11-12; 21:14-15; 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4; 19:1-7 Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;





SIGHTLINE: Acquire Your Target

What did the Scripture mean to the original author and audience? As you explore information on the author, content, culture, history, land, and language of the Bible, you will gain a better understanding of the intended message of God's Word.

Every fundamental church recognizes the day of Pentecost as the birthday of the Church. Therefore, it is no surprise that the enemy would try to frighten people with the very name **Pentecost**, which may sound foreign or strange to some. However, Pentecost is simply the name of the Jewish feast which came fifty days after Passover. It was during this feast that God poured out His Spirit on the Early Church. Churches cease to be effective and eventually may even close their doors when they cease to honor the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Could a reason why many men do not seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit be that they do not feel like they are good enough? The truth is, God does not give you His Holy Spirit because you are good enough. God gives you His Holy Spirit so you can become what you could **never** become without the Holy Spirit.

Author Robert Menzies said, "The Pentecostal movement is facing an identity crisis."¹ Without a strong theological base, enthusiastic movements tend to dissipate. Thus, the future of the Pentecostal movement remains uncertain in the eyes of some. If Spirit-filled believers do not pursue finding out the **why** of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, then the **what** and **how** of their ministry will once again fade into history. If we are going to continue to **experience** the ministry of the Holy Spirit then we must **understand** that ministry as it is taught in the Bible. It is **both** the Scriptures and the Spirit that help us grow.

In Luke 24, Jesus had previously died and been resurrected, and is now talking with His disciples right before His ascension into heaven. For three-and-a-half years, Jesus taught His disciples the truth about the Kingdom of God. Yet, even when He hung on the Cross, the disciples did not understand what Jesus had taught. They could not comprehend the fact Jesus was not going to overthrow the Roman government and establish His kingdom by force. The disciples never could capture the idea that Jesus would establish His kingdom

¹ Robert P. Menzies. Evidential Tongues: An Essay on Theological Method. <https://www.aptspress.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/98-2-menzies.pdf> (accessed January 21, 2020).



in the hearts of men. Then, just before Jesus ascends to heaven, He does an incredible miracle in Luke 24:45: “Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”

Jesus gave His disciples a powerful tool—the Word. You would think this was all they would need to establish the church. But four verses later, Jesus promised them a second tool—the Spirit. Luke 24:49 records, “And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” If the church is going to effectively impact today’s world, it must be emphasize both the Bible and the Holy Spirit at work in the life of the follower of Christ.

The fulfillment of the promise of the Spirit takes place in Acts 1:4–5 that says,

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Some believers incorrectly argue that a spiritual language is not needed today. Their argument articulates that only the apostle Paul’s writings can be used to establish the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Since Paul wrote to teach, they surmise that his writings are the only ones viable for establishing theology. They argue that believers can exclusively take what Paul wrote and build doctrines and theologies, thus discounting the words of Jesus found in the Gospels. In contrast, authors like Luke wrote for narrative and historical purposes. Their conclusion is that what Luke wrote cannot be used to establish doctrines. This means that only from Paul can one embrace and build a doctrine on the Holy Spirit, whereas since Luke just provides accounts, his work is not viable for doctrine. This argument excludes all the writings about the Day of Pentecost in an attempt to force everything Paul and Luke said to mean the same thing.

However, you do not have to force Luke and Paul’s writings to mean the same thing just because they use similar terms. Like Paul, Luke writes as an independent person. This means if you consider what Luke wrote to be as important as what Paul wrote, then each passage becomes clear.

In fact, Paul teaches that everything that has been written in Scripture has been written as an example for you in order to warn, instruct, and teach you the truths of God. Paul himself said about Scripture:



- 1 Corinthians 10:11: Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.
- Romans 15:4: For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

In addition, the manner, style, method, and format of Luke and Acts are similar to other biblical writings that are considered viable for establishing theology. For example, if you take the works of Luke and Paul and lay them side by side, you discover they have very similar styles.

Furthermore, Luke himself states that he wrote for **both** narrative and instructional purposes. Read what he says in Luke 1:1-4:

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a **narrative** of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been **taught**.

Even the scholars who do not believe in spiritual language, believe that Luke and Acts are actually one work in two volumes. Therefore, a person can conclude that history and theology are not separate but affirm one another. Luke provides careful detail about each of the incidents of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This helps readers not only know what historically happened, but to also learn by seeing the pattern that accompanies the baptism in the Holy Spirit.





CROSSHAIR: Focus on Your Target

What does this study say to you? Through studying the biblical explanations and principles in this study below, you will better understand what God is saying to you today.

Remember the hermeneutical principle from the previous lesson that **Scripture** interprets **Scripture**? This principle also helps us understand that we shouldn't pull out one section of Scripture to build your doctrine or theology without understanding it in light of the rest of the Bible. Since Paul admonishes that all Scripture can be used for doctrine, an examination of what Luke wrote about the baptism in the Holy Spirit in his Gospel and Acts is not only acceptable, but vital.

- Jesus' promise that the disciples will be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5)
- Fulfillment of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)
- Pattern of the baptism in the Holy Spirit described (Acts 10:44-45)
- Confirmation of those who continue to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-7)
- Luke's record of promises of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13; 12:11-12; 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8)





BULLSEYE: Zero in on Your Target

How can this study apply to your life? By listening to the Holy Spirit's leading as you answer this series of questions, you can gain useful insights that will help you apply the truth of God's Word to your daily life.

Write down your answer to the following questions here or in your journal:

- Who appears in the passages you read?
- Where are these passages taking place?
- When are these passages occurring?
- Why are these passages important?
- What is happening in these passages?
- What verse stood out to you? Why?



- Describe a time in your life where you encountered someone who did not agree with Spirit baptism. Include their arguments against Spirit baptism and your response.

- Do you agree with Menzies' statement, "The Pentecostal movement is facing an identity crisis . . . largely due to the fact that theology gives direction to our experience without a strong theological base.. enthusiastic movements dissipate . . . thus, the future of the Pentecostal movement remains uncertain"? Why or why not?

- On a scale of one to four, with one being very well and four being not well, how well do you use the two tools (Word and Spirit) Jesus gave you? Write out a plan to improve.



USING MY *FIREBIBLE*

Read the study notes for the following verses in the *FireBible* and answer the accompanying questions:

- Luke 11:13. Which Holy Spirit experience does this verse reference?
- Matthew 12:31. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? Describe the four-step process that leads to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
- Luke 24:49. Where can you find the promise of Spirit baptism recorded in the Old Testament and the New Testament? Read each of those verses and write down your observations.
- Read the *FireBible* article “Jesus and the Holy Spirit.” Write in your own words the relationship Jesus had with the Holy Spirit and the practical implications this relationship had on Jesus. How can this apply to you?





TRIGGER PULL: Hit Your Target

How does this study affect your relationship with God and others? You experience God's Word in action as you use it to direct your journey with Him and those around you. Answer the following questions and record the answers below or in your journal.

- Take some time to listen to the Lord about what you just studied. How did this study help deepen your love for God?

- Write down a thought from this study that you experienced this week.

- As a result of your deepened love for God, how can you practically demonstrate the thought you experienced to your family and to others around you?

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