

Holy Spirit is God 5

Baptism of the Holy Spirit & Power

(preached 2/6/22)

Please turn to *Acts 1*.

APOLOGY

LAST WEEK:

- Have we westernized Christianity? Formed it into something we're comfortable and familiar with?
- WALL between supernatural events & promises made in Bible vs. what we believe.
- We claim to believe Moses parted Red Sea, Jesus walked on water, and demons were driven out of people, and people were raised from the dead.
- Yet if something extra-ordinary takes place at church do we get scared, freak out, and perhaps even claim it was from the devil?
- Have we invented replacements for the power of the Holy Spirit? Programs, sports teams, fog lights, coffee bars, and other things to keep us busy or dazzle us?
- What if Jesus created the church to be the most supernatural body on planet earth?
- We don't need to cede this territory over to pagan practices like sorcery, astrology, witchcraft, psychics, & mediums.
- A MIRACLE is when a being from the spiritual dimension—what the Bible calls “the high places” or “heavenlies”—interacts with us/this world.
- In God's Heavenly Kingdom there is no sickness, demons, ignorance, or multiple languages...thus when one of those gifts manifests here we are fulfilling what Jesus promised in Matthew 16:19—bringing what's in Heaven down here to earth.
- Let's earnestly seek the spiritual gifts, of Whom the Holy Spirit is the Lord and dispenser of!

TODAY ***we're going to learn about and SEEK OUT the Baptism of the Holy Spirit!***

WHAT IS IT? Simply defined: it's when we are immersed in the Holy Spirit. When we live inside of Him and He surrounds us like the House of the Lord, a Tower of Refuge and Strength, and the other things Scripture calls it.

DIFFERENT THAN SALVATION? When we're Saved, the Holy Spirit comes to live IN us...we are His Temple.

John 20:22 (ESV)

²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

SPIRIT WITHIN. This took place immediately after Jesus was raised from the dead. In every instance of all Scripture where God breathes on someone, they’re given a “life giving spirit” that comes to live inside them...their physical bodies. Paul backs this up:

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?

¹⁷ If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

SEPARATE EVENT. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate event, although it doesn’t have to be, where we now “go” to live inside Him! He immersed Himself in us at our Salvation, and now we complete the circle by immersing ourselves in Him.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES. As we just read from John 20 (and several places in Acts), the disciples (and others) were Saved at time 1, then Baptized in God’s Spirit at time 2. Some have experienced both at their initial Salvation which is amazing!

WHY NECESSARY? Even after the Holy Spirit came to live in the disciples, they weren’t ready to make disciples themselves without Jesus being physically present. Yes, they had already preached the Kingdom and worked some miracles but that was because Jesus—God in the flesh—was present with them and He was their Source of empowerment.

SENDING SPIRIT. He keeps telling them He’s going back to His Father in Heaven, though, so now what? As we’ve already learned, He’s sending His Spirit Who will be the Giver of the same gifts they’ve already been moving in. Where will the Spirit be, the Source? Inside of them! This will enable them to go into all the world because the glorious Lord of the gifts will be with them whether they’re together or separate! Whether in Jerusalem or Athens!

Acts 1:1-5 (ESV)

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,

² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ 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;

⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

“WAIT.” Risen Jesus is standing at the top of the Mount of Olives and He’s getting ready to go back to His Father God in Heaven. His LAST instructions are a promise—the disciples will be Baptized in the Holy Spirit! They already have Him living inside them and now it’s time to get them ready of carry the torch Jesus has been bearing: to make disciples for God’s Kingdom!

Acts 1:6-12 (ESV)

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

THEY NEED SUPERNATURAL HELP. Jesus doesn’t send them into the field yet, even though they already have experience doing so. Since He’s leaving, He’s telling them to wait until they’re immersed in God’s Spirit...”BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER” is the phrase Jesus used. The Greek word for “power” is *dunamis*, from where we get the word dynamite. The literal translation is *miraculous power, a miracle itself, and even violence/strength/might*. Not violence as in punching a person, but violence to punch the devil and the fallen world which causes sickness, injury, deception, ignorance, confusion, and death!

IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS IS GOING TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE POWER TO FIGHT AND WIN!

Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

SOUND OF WIND. There was no wind...only the SOUND OF wind. The AMP translates the sound like “a violent tempest.” Why this sound? This is the breath of the Holy Spirit! The same breath Jesus used to create the Heavens and earth! The same breath He used to breathe life into Adam, the dry bones of Ezekiel 37, and the disciples!

It's violent because it's an invasion of earth from Heaven!!!

TONGUES OF FIRE. What's up with the “divided tongues of fire”? These same ones appeared way back in Genesis when Adam & Eve were kicked out of Eden and, more specifically, denied them access to the Tree of Life. Divided tongues of fire blocked the first couple from eternal life. ***Now the same rest UPON the disciples and are FOR them and not against them!*** The Tree of Life grants healing to the nations (Revelation 22:2) and the disciples now have FULL ACCESS. As you read through the Book of Acts, you'll notice the gift they operated in the most often was healing!

Verse 4: the curse God made at the Tower of Babel has been reversed. He confused languages back then due to humanities' disobedience and the Gift of Tongues has now been granted to verbally share the Gospel so that people of other languages can hear and understand.

Acts 2:5-13 (ESV)

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”

⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³ But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

WE CAN ALL HEAR GOSPEL. God empowering people to hear the Gospel in their own language means He intends for all to have the chance to be Saved!

Acts 2:14-21 (ESV)

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ““And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

JOEL 2. Peter quotes from Joel 2 and listen carefully to these verses: ***we are meant to be operating in the supernatural gifts regardless of how you interpret when “the last days” are.*** Most certainly if Peter was referring to his time as part of the Last Days, we most certainly can 2000 years later. What’s more is Biblical references to the LD’s—including the one Peter is quoting—are referring to the Second Coming of Christ! Again: we’re certainly closer to His return now than at the time Peter quoted Joel!

POURED HIMSELF/MIRACLE DEFINED. As we read in the first 4 verses of Acts 2, the Spirit POURED Himself onto His Church! Please remember how a miracle was defined: when a being in the higher spiritual places interacts with us/this world is when the supernatural takes place.

SUPERNATURAL ALWAYS SUPERCEDES, OVERCOMES, AND OVERRIDES THE NATURAL! The natural physical laws seem absolute until a spirit being decides to stick its finger down into the middle of our village.

- A person suddenly has the strength of Samson to lift a car off another trapped under.
- You just “know” so and so is a rat despite all evidence to the contrary, like the 3 wise men knew Herod was evil despite claiming to want to worship toddler Jesus.
- A person with cancer is healed completely (MARY UPRIGHT’s DAUGHTER?) even though medical professionals declared a death sentence.

Jesus performed many supernatural acts because, as God, He invaded this reality!

Then in Acts 2 God the Holy Spirit does the same thing...AFTER Jesus placed Him within the disciples in John 20!

EXODUS PENTECOST. It wasn't the first time God came to earth. On the first Day of Pentecost, which took place at Mt. Sinai during the Exodus, God descended from Heaven and appeared on earth. The Lord allowed me to experience Pentecost version 1 in a dream once and I was terrified!

Exodus 19:16-19 (ESV)

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain.

¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.

¹⁹ And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.

TREMbled. The people were so terrified they all trembled and the Hebrew word used here denotes a violent, terror filled, fall down on the ground trembling. The presence of the cloud DAMPENED DOWN the full effect of the Lord, otherwise everyone would have died and not just fallen on their faces in uncontrollable convulsions! The people were so scared they later told Moses that they didn't want to experience the Lord's presence and voice ever again and that he (Moses) would have to hear from God by himself! I repeat: this was Pentecost version 1.

WAGGED FINGERS. It was common for the Jews in the days of Jesus to wag their fingers at the ancestors over this. Both Paul and the writer of Hebrews talked of the fact their forefathers chose to punt the football to Moses alone rather than act as a team. When you read in the Bible the oft-quoted verse "today, hear His voice" it's referring to the failure of the Exodus Hebrews to be immersed in God.

Thank God the Apostles didn't make the same mistake.

Acts 19:1-7 (ESV)

¹ And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.

² And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³ And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism."

⁴ And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."

⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

SIMON. Last week I told the first part of Simon the Sorcerer's story. He operated in Satanic powers and dazzled many for years, having quite the reputation. Yet when he sees Phillip flowing in the supernatural gifts, he realizes these are from the One True God and far greater than anything he's been doing. Look what happens:

Acts 8:14-24 (ESV)

- ¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,
¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,
¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.
¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,
¹⁹ saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!
²¹ You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.
²² Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.
²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."
²⁴ And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

SAVED BUT NOT SPIRIT BAPTIZED. In both instances we see born again believers who are Saved, but have not received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. As soon as they did, the gifts began to flow!

GOOD NEWS. Simon's example is good news for us and not bad: the gift cannot be bought with money, influence, or anything of this world. If it could then only some could have it. It's a FREE GIFT available to anyone who knows Jesus as their Savior!

The Apostles didn't make the same mistake as their forefathers, but instead pressed into the Lord to hear His voice and be immersed in His presence.

When the chance came around a second time, they chose differently.

How about us?

The Joel 2/Acts 2 outpouring didn't end with the Apostles, it started with them.

The Holy Spirit has not stopped His and the Kingdom's invasion of this earth, it continues.

CELIN TESTIMONY