

The Spirit of Holiness Gives Us The Victory

Matt. 3:11 TPT *“Those who repent I baptize with water, but there is coming a Man after me who is more powerful than I. In fact, I’m not even worthy enough to pick up His sandals. **He will submerge you into union with the Spirit of Holiness and with a raging fire** (or “He will baptize you in the raging fire of the Holy Spirit!”).”* Do you remember the Palisades fire in California last year? It destroyed so many houses and other property from Jan. 7-31, 2025 (25 days) in Los Angeles County! There were 12 deaths, 7 people missing, with approx. 105,000 people evacuated. The damage is estimated at \$25 billion. The cause is said to be the rekindling of an earlier arson-caused wildfire.

This is the awful work of both man & nature! Lives changed radically within moments or hours or days. People angry over who should have done what in order to prevent this catastrophe, including having hydrants full of water & a nearby reservoir should have been full as well.

Today our nation is in need of a much greater fire, and one that spread from coast to coast and border to border! America needs the fire of the Holy Ghost that John the Baptist prophesied – a fire that cannot be quenched. I’m talking about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – our submergence into union with the Spirit of Holiness.

The Spirit Upon Jesus Becomes the Spirit Upon Us

John 1:29 - 33 TPT *“The very next day, John saw Jesus coming to him to be baptized, and John cried out, “Look! There He is – God’s Lamb! He takes away the sins of the entire world! **30.** I told you that a Mighty One would come Who is far greater than I am, because He existed long before I was born! **31.** My baptism was for the preparation of His appearing to Israel, even though I didn’t recognize Him.” **32.** Then, as he baptized Jesus, he proclaimed*

these words: “I see the Spirit of God appear like a dove descending from the heavenly realm and landing upon Him – and it remained on Him! 33. Before this I didn’t know Who He was. But the One who sent me to baptize with water had told me, ‘You will the Spirit down and stay on someone. He will be the One I sent to baptize with the Holy Spirit.’”

“Jesus is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. The offer of Holy Spirit baptism is for all who come to Christ. In **John 1:29**, the “*Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world*” is also the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit (**v. 33**).”

Worship Only Unto the King

Read Acts 2:4-13 TPT.

S.G.B.: “**The Miracle of Pentecost**”. “The miracle of Pentecost happened to everyone in the Upper Room: “*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues*” (**v. 4**). The 120 gathered in the Upper Room without an expectation of what would happen – only that they should stay there until it did. Some propose that the languages spoken on the Day of Pentecost were all known languages; however, there is no support for this in the text. First, those filled with the Spirit that day did not know the languages that they began speaking, though about a dozen of those languages understood were identified by visitors attending the feast in Jerusalem. Second, since all 120 spoke with tongues, it is logical and likely that many other unidentified languages were spoken – all, doubtless in the worshiping, ministering power of the Holy Spirit; and shortly three thousand people received Christ. This enablement by the Spirit initiated the spread of the gospel in the hostile environment of persecution, idolatry, and political oppression, and it is still the answer for the spread of the gospel today.”

Learning from Israel’s Failures

Now in times past, the Lord sent fire among His people, how-ever, it was a fire of judgment. Let's see the reason why He did that. **Num. 11:1-3 NKJV** *"Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp. 2. Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched (extinguished). 3. So he called the name of the place Taberah (Burning), because the fire of the LORD had burned among them."*

So, how does this apply to us today in Christ's church? Let's go to the O.T. examples found in **1 Cor. 10:1-13**, which instruct us that (**SFLBnote**), "Christian liberty has its limits; it does not include flirting with idolatry: although idols are nonentities, the demonic powers behind them are real. History illustrates the danger of self-indulgence. Israel had redemptive experiences that parallel water baptism and eating and drinking the Lord's Supper (vv. 1-4), but many sinned and were destroyed (vv. 5-10). These same lessons apply today (vv. 11-13)."

The Cloud of Glory – Old Testament & New

1 Cor. 10:1-13 TPT *"My dear fellow believers, you need to understand that all of our Jewish ancestors who walked through a wilderness long ago were under **the glory cloud** ("the cloud of glory is a picture of the Holy Spirit") and passed through the waters of the sea on both sides. 2. They were all baptized into the cloud of glory, into the fellowship of Moses, and into the sea. 3. They all ate the same heavenly manna (or "spiritual food") 4. And drank water from the same spiritual rock that traveled with them – and that Rock was Christ Himself." **TPT note**: "Christ is the anointed Rock of truth and the Rock of shelter. The people drank of His living water. The miracle of the Rock of Christ provided them with water wherever they jour-neyed. He is a*

fountain that never runs dry, for He will never leave us alone in a wilderness.”

“5. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their dead bodies were scattered around the wilderness (Aramaic: Or “They failed [the test] in the wilderness.”). 6. Now all these things serve as types and pictures for us – lessons that teach us not to fail in the same way by callously craving worthless things 7. And practicing idolatry, as some of them did. For it is written: “The people settles in to their unrestrained revelry, with feasting and drinking, then they rose up and became wildly out of control (Aramaic: “carouse”; [falling into immorality])!” 8. Neither should we commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, which caused the death of twenty-three thousand on a single day (Num. 25:9). Nor should we ever provoke the Lord, as some of them did by putting Him to outrageous tests that resulted in their death from snakebites day after day (Num. 21:5-9). 10. And we must not embrace their ways by complaining – grumb-ling with discontent, as many of them did, and were killed by **the destroyer** (or “the destroying angel”)!” **TPT note:** “In the Pentateuch there are at least sixteen occasions of the people of Israel murmuring. Believers today have even more spiritual blessings than Israel experienced in the wilderness, which would make our complaining even more odious.”

“11. All the tests they endured on their way through the wilderness are a symbolic picture, an example that provides us with a warning so that we can learn through what they experienced. For we live in a time when the purpose of all the ages past is now completing its goal within us (“The Gk. is “The end of the ages has arrived upon us.”). 12. So be aware if you think it could never happen to you, lest your pride becomes your downfall.”

The Way of Escape

V. 13. TPT “We all experience times of testing (or “temptation”), which is normal for every human being. But God will be faithful to

you. He will screen and filter the severity, nature, and timing of every test or trial you face so that you can bear it. And each test is an opportunity to trust Him more, for along with every trial God has provided for you a way of **escape** (or “an exodus” [an exit path]) that will bring you out of it victoriously.”*

*In other words, because of His grace and faithfulness, God will limit the severity of every test so that you are not tested beyond your ability to cope with a situation. Every believer who faces seasons of difficulty, temptations and hardships will find God’s unlimited grace available by faith.

SFLB note: “...While God permits testing for the purpose of strengthening faith and character, Satan entices to evil for the purpose destruction (James 1:2-4; 12-15).” Remember, God will not only limit the severity of our trials, but He will also make a way of escape.

Finally, **Philippians 2:14-15 TPT** admonishes us, “*Live a cheerful life, **without complaining or division** among yourselves. **15.** For then you will be seen as innocent (or “mature”), faultless, and pure children of God, even though you live in the midst of a brutal and perverse culture. For you will appear among them as shining lights in the universe, **16a.** holding out the words of eternal life.”**

SFLB note: “As the heavenly bodies shine forth in brightness against the blackness of the night, so the lives of true Christians lighten the moral darkness of the world.”