**"Founded on the Rock"**

**Lesson Seven: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

**Hebrews 6:1, 2; Acts 8:12, 14-17**

Jesus of Nazareth was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin. That same Spirit came upon Him at His baptism in water to empower Him for His ministry. His title, the Christ or Messiah, means the Anointed One. This is because He was anointed by the Spirit. By the Spirit, He was able to offer Himself to die on the cross (Heb. 9:14). By the Spirit He was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven (Ro. 8:11). Because of His sacrifice, the Spirit who proceeds from the Father can be given to those who believe. Christ’s death on the cross made it possible for us to be partakers of this same power and have this same experience. Galatians 3:13, 14; Acts 2:38, 39; John 16:7. The New Testament or covenant is a covenant of the Spirit! He is what makes the Christian life possible. Therefore, it is essential that we also receive this baptism that Jesus received.

John 1:33-34 (the testimony of John the Baptist) - …the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." NIV

1. You can’t become a Christian without receiving the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Romans 8:9 says a person without the Spirit isn’t really a Christian at all.
3. John 3:5 says we must be born of the Spirit to even be saved. The verse can be translated born again or of the Spirit, and you’ll see this in a note in many Bibles.
4. Every Christian has the Father Son and Holy Spirit dwelling in him/her. There are no “second-class” Christians!
5. And yet, we see two distinct experiences in Scripture.
6. Acts 8:12, 14-17 – The Samaritans were saved, baptized in water, but still needed the apostles to lay hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit’s power.
7. John 4:14 – A well, springing up (salvation); John 7:37, 38 – Rivers of living water (baptism in the Spirit)
8. John 20:22 – A “breath” (salvation); Acts 2:2 – A “mighty rushing wind” (baptism in the Spirit)
9. 1 Corinthians 10:2 – Israel experienced baptism in the sea (water baptism) and in the cloud (representing Holy Spirit baptism)
10. Not always does this happen in two experiences – sometimes (rarely) it happens in only one:
11. Acts 10:44-48 – Only one experience for Cornelius and his people.
12. Acts 9:17 – Paul got it all in one experience!
13. What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit all about?
14. Power (dunamis) – Acts 1:8

 1. Primarily power to be witnesses of/for Christ. (Lu. 24:49)

2. But our witness is no good if we don’t also live differently, live the Christian life so that we produce the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:16-25)

3. The Spirit also gives us His gifts, (1 Cor. 12:7-12), to empower us for service.

1. The Spirit immerses (baptizes) us into the body of Christ, the Church, and into the spiritual world.

1. Jesus becomes more real, more personal and close.

2. We receive more revelation, discernment.

3. Without the Holy Spirit we are all blind, dull, can’t perceive the things of God (1Cor.2:14)

1. How do we receive the power of the Holy Spirit?
2. By receiving Jesus as the Lord of our lives. Acts 2:38; 5:32; John 6:29; 14:15 – The Holy Spirit comes upon obedient believers, open to all God has for them.
3. Realize the experience exists and that God wants you to be filled.
4. Luke 24:49 – The disciples were told to remain in Jerusalem until they had received power.
5. Acts 1:8 – Jesus said we would receive power to be witnesses. If He needed this power, I can promise you, we need it even more!
6. Ephesians 5:18 – Paul said we must be continually filled with the Spirit!

C. Desire all God has for you: John 7:37, 38 – A person has to thirst for more of the Spirit.

D. Believe with all your heart: Mark 11:22-24 – By simple faith we receive (Gal. 3:2).

E. Receive like a child. Matthew 7:7, 8 – Everyone who asks receives!

V. What about speaking in tongues?

 A. There are two ways of looking at the gift of tongues.

 1. It is just one of the many gifts the Spirit gives.

 2. It is the gift which proves that a person has been baptized in the Spirit.

 B. What brought people to see it as the evidence of Spirit baptism?

 1. Charles Parham’s Bible School in Topeka, Kansas. Parham taught the baptism before he himself had

 received it. He left his small group of students with an assignment. Search the scriptures to see if

 there is any evidence given for the baptism of the Spirit. He assigned this, then left town.

 2. While he was gone, the students came to the conclusion that tongues was the evidence, and one of

 them, a young lady named Agnes Ozman prayed and received this gift.

 3. Out of this small school came a black preacher named William Seymour, who took the teaching to

 Los Angeles, and was used to start the Azuza Street Revival, which eventually helped to spread

 Pentecostalism around the world. In 1914, the many small groups joined together into the General

 Council of the Assemblies of God.

 4. Their distinctive teaching was that tongues was the initial evidence of Spirit baptism.

 5. If we look at the 5 episodes in the Book of Acts in which people were said to be filled with the Holy

 Spirit, we will see that in 3 of them, it is very clear that the people spoke in tongues, and in the other

 2, it is implied. (Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 19 are the passages. In 2, 10, 19, the people clearly spoke with

 tongues, in 8 & 9 it is implied, by the way, also notice the connection with water baptism).

 C. Why tongues?

 1. It is a private prayer language which edifies believers and enables them to pray effective prayers (as

 well as sing songs and give thanks), led by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 14:4, 15, 17)

 2. It is a sort of inauguration into the dimension of the Spirit and into the other gifts.

 3. It is a sign which God can use to impress unbelievers. (1 Cor. 14:22)

 D. What about the scripture that seems to indicate that not all will speak with tongues?

 1. 1 Cor. 12:29, 30 asks a series of questions, the answers to which are all negative. So it says, Do all

 speak with tongues? And the answer is obviously no, the same as to all the other questions there.

 2. What is the Pentecostal explanation of this? The context there is of gifts which people exercise in

 ministry.

 3. Therefore, we believe the gift of tongues mentioned there is not the same as the gift all

 people can exercise when they’re baptized in the Spirit, but rather, the gift as exercised in public

 ministry. All people will not exercise a spiritual gift publicly like this, so when Paul asks the

 question, “Do all speak with tongues?”, the answer is no. But that should not be taken to negate

 speaking in tongues as initial evidence of Spirit baptism.

 4. Paul said we were to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, and not to forbid people from speaking in

 tongues. (1 Cor. 14:1, 39) For this reason, we urge everyone to seek the baptism of the Spirit, with

 the evidence of speaking in tongues.

 E. It’s important to recognize *who* speaks in tongues.

 1. Many wrongly think that the Holy Spirit will speak these tongues, so they wait for Him to do so.

 2. But this is not what the Bible teaches. It says the Holy Spirit came on people, and then *they* spoke

 with tongues as the Spirit enabled them to do so. (Acts 2:4)

 3. Ps. 81:10 says open your mouth wide, and God will fill it.

 4. Paul said if he prayed in a tongue, *his* spirit prayed, not his mind. He didn’t say the Holy Spirit

 prayed. He also said that therefore, *he* would pray with the Spirit and sing with the Spirit (1 Cor.

 14:14, 15). This plainly shows that *it was Paul himself*, and not the Holy Spirit, who chose to do this

 and who carried it out. Paul decided when to speak or sing. The gift was subject to his will.

 5. Therefore, we should ask God to fill us, but then we should open our mouths and believe that God

 will fill them, exactly as He has promised. Has God ever lied?

 the Holy Spirit will enable us to speak in tongues, edify ourselves, and magnify Him.