

## THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

### **Acts 2:3-41 (NIV)**

This sermon is on the *baptism* of the Holy Spirit. This church is no stranger to hearing about the Holy Spirit in our preaching and our teaching and our praying. But the Holy Spirit convicted me in the days leading up to this sermon that it has been a while – I dare say, maybe even years – since you have a heard a “point blank” sermon on this phenomenon known as the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. And along with that conviction, I have sensed the Holy Spirit dialing up the urgency to bring this Word.

If you have the wherewithal to listen to Pastor Roberto’s preaching between February of 2022 to even his last sermon last May, you will hear him exhorting us, with increasing urgency, to become a church full of the Holy Spirit on every level. Then a couple of weeks ago, I heard a friend, Pastor Paul Atwater of North River Church, preach about the baptism of the Holy Spirit at a breakfast at the Union Club, of all places: hardly Pentecostals in that room – Congregationalists, Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists, heard a word on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And most recently, I had the privilege of witnessing about 50 or so souls, many of them new to the Gospel, spend a day and a half yearning for the fullness of the Holy Spirit at Lion of Judah Spanish’s “Holy Spirit Weekend”. It’s time to talk about this, head on. Here. Now.

You would expect that a sermon on the *baptism of the Holy Spirit* to address who the Holy Spirit is, and what is this thing called the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. And it will. But the way to get there is to focus on “*Why?*”. Why should it matter? Not just to this Church – but to *You*?

**And on that note, we begin with some Good News:** If you are in this sanctuary, or listening online, you don’t come here with a blank slate with respect to your relationship with the Holy Spirit. Good News – You are already capable of *hearing* the voice of the Holy Spirit – and capable of *responding* to His Voice. -- You are here because He drew you; He chose you; He invited you ... you were “summoned” here . . . -- You are here at His initiation; at His Invitation; ... you were “summoned” here ...

“I’m here, Pastor Sam ... but Pastor Sam, now what?”

-- What motivated you to come? To “accept the Invitation”?

Perhaps you are here because you’ve come to realize that your Life is not as it should be.

-- That it could be better. You've tried on your own efforts to "fix things" – your mind, your habits, your attitudes, your frustrated ambitions – and despite your best intentions, you know you could be better, you know you should be better ...

-- "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Know: that, too – that realization – is from the Holy Spirit

**(1) It is He who leads us to all Truth.**

<sup>16</sup> *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

**John 14:16-17**

<sup>13</sup> *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*

**John 16:13**

It is He who gives us a glimpse of a man or woman we have never been, and says, "This is who really are – This is who you were meant to be – This is who you were created to be ... "

**(2) It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of all sin – and leads us to Jesus.**

<sup>26</sup> *"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.*

**John 15:26**

You cannot be who God has called you to be if you are not in right relationship with Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> *When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:*

**John 16:8**

We live contentedly sinning – and dying. Until the Holy Spirit reveals to us that we are "in the wrong". Dead wrong. It is the Holy Spirit that shows us that we have offended the Lord, that we have been cut off from His grace, that we have drifted away from His righteousness, and protection, and blessing.  
-- We realize that Jesus is Lord – in charge – whether we serve Him or not, whether we love Him or not.  
-- And we are "cut to the heart": "Lord I want to make this right. Brothers, what do I do?"

Yes, that too, is the Holy Spirit; That, too, is Good News. He leads us to Jesus. Which is what is happening at the end of Peter's sermon in Acts Chapter: Brothers, what do I do?

-- "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins" – Let Jesus fix it; let Jesus inside you; let Jesus lead you, instruct you, let Jesus teach you.

-- And Jesus does that THROUGH the Holy Spirit. "Filled with the Holy Spirit". "The Gift of the Holy Spirit". Beyond Repentance – and public confession (baptism in water), we Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

**This is a separate experience** called interchangeably, "Baptism in Holy Spirit; Gift of the Holy Spirit; Promise of the Holy Spirit".

<sup>16</sup> *John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire".*

**Luke 3:16**

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. [Acts 18 tells us that Apollos was a guy who came to believe in Jesus through a different strand: the preaching of John the Baptist; he was a powerful preacher, and began sharing the Gospel in Ephesus; but not the whole Gospel – he was missing a big piece, as you will see ... ]

There he found some disciples <sup>2</sup> and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

<sup>3</sup> So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

**Acts:19-1-6**

**“They spoke in tongues and prophesied”**. As you receive a visitation of the Holy Spirit – the moment the Holy Spirit inhabits you, makes contact with you – you should expect our bodies and emotions to respond: “speaking in tongues and prophesying”; some respond with tears, some with laughter, some speaking in tongues.

-- Sure enough, every time you see a reference to the baptism in the Holy Spirit in Scripture, you see it accompanied by some physical manifestation – including the first time:

<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**Acts 1:4-5**

Here Jesus is repeating the words the Disciples heard from John the Baptist three years earlier. “Yes, you have been with me these last three years; Yes, you are witnesses to me rising from the dead; but do not leave Jerusalem, do not attempt to fulfill the Great Commission and launch this movement, until you receive this separate ‘Gift’, this ‘Baptism with the Holy Spirit’”.

They must have asked themselves, “How will we know we received it?” Oh ... you’ll Know ...

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>[a]</sup> as the Spirit enabled them.

**Acts 2:1-4**

As the Church advances into the surrounding darkness, this experience advances with it: first *Samaria*; then, *Cornelius’ house*; then, *Antioch*; then, *Corinth*; then, *Ephesus* ... Until now. Confessing Churches of every denomination; Anglicans and HTB – bringing Revival to UK, the World. British Anglicans speaking in tongues, praying for the sick, driving out demons.

“Pastor Sam, is there a danger of the church going crazy, and becoming obsessed with the ‘manifestations’”? Whole other sermon. The Church is called to “manage the manifestations” in a

corporate worship setting [**1 Corinthians 14**] – but not *quench* them [**1 Thessalonians 5:19** “do not put out the Spirit’s Fire”].

**Focus is still WHY:**

You may be here focused on your Past: “Lord, how do I fix this?” The Lord is focused on your FUTURE. Lord wants to create a DELUXE VERSION of you.

-- Still You (your face, your experiences, your upbringing, etc.), but a “God Version” of You. It is God Living Life *through* You.

-- Peter – man of Galilee, fisherman, no formal schooling. Goes from being a moral coward, self-centered, to this man now standing here. Who weeks ago denied ever knowing Jesus, now speaking to thousands about Jesus.

-- Gift of the Spirit is God inside you shaping your mind; God inside you shaping your character; God inside you, transmitting His power through you.

The Gift/Baptism/Promise is God shaping you – and everything about you – into the person you were created to become.

**And that has Two Manifestations:**

(1) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit; and,

(2) The Fruit (or the Evidence) of the Holy Spirit . . .

**(1) GIFTS:** There is a role, an assignment, that the Lord has set apart for you as part of the Church, the Body of Christ; that You, and only You, can fulfill.

-- And the Holy Spirit has equipped you with a package of gifts:

*<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,<sup>[a]</sup> and to still another the interpretation of tongues.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

Everything that you will need to fulfill your assignment: preaching, teaching, intercessory prayer, healing, discernment, wisdom, encouragement, administration, leadership, mercy, etc.

**(2) FRUIT** – or *Evidence* – of the Holy Spirit. This is for everyone, no matter who you are, or how you were born, or how you grew up, or what happened along the way – this is meant for everyone.

-- Holy Spirit will shape your character into the character of Jesus – so that the World may know that Jesus is in You, and that you belong to Him; “they will know you by your Fruit”.

-- Because Jesus is *Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control*. (**Galatians 5**).

*That*, more than anything – as you grow in the Fruit of the Spirit – will point to Jesus, and transform everything and everyone around you – your family, your marriage, your job.

- It is that which will break curses afflicting your family for generations. It STOPS WITH YOU.
- And draws others to Jesus through you. This Gift is for you, your children, *“And all whom the Lord our God will Call ... ”*

Starting with You, this morning. But you must *respond* – you must open yourself to the Holy Spirit.

- You must *welcome* Him. *“Come, Holy Spirit.”*