

### I. THE ONGOING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. In Acts 2, the disciples are baptized with the Holy Spirit, and speak in tongues. 3000 are saved.

B. In Acts 3 and 4, Peter and John are going to the temple to pray. A man who is over 40 years old (4:22) who had been born lame is sitting by the gate called Beautiful. Peter and John fix their eyes on him. They say “Look at us” (Acts 3:4; c.f. Acts 13:9; 14:9).

*Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*

C. At least a couple more thousand are saved (Acts 4:4). Peter and John are arrested and address the Sanhedrin. Peter, filled with the Spirit, addresses them. A. Peter says that it is by the name of Jesus Christ that this man was made whole. He speaks of Jesus as the only way to be saved.

*Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel.<sup>12</sup> "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

D. The religious leaders cannot deny that a miracle has taken place, so they threaten the disciples so that they might not speak in Jesus’ name anymore. Peter and John are released, so they gather together to pray. They were filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4 (cf. Acts 1:5 – baptized with the Holy Spirit), Peter is filled again in Acts 4:8, and then everyone is filled again in 4:31.

*Acts 4:29 "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,<sup>30</sup> by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

E. We must be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

*Eph. 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.*

### II. SOME WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. **Given/Received** (Ac 2:38; 8:15)

B. **Baptized** (Ac 1:5; Ac 11:16; Mk 1:8; Mt 3:11; Lk 3:16) “Baptize” is used in several ways in the NT. Means: plunge, sink, drown, drench, overwhelm. John baptized Jesus with water. Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit.

C. **Filled** (Ac 2:4; 4:31; Eph 5:18)

*Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

D. **Fall on, come upon, poured out upon.** (Acts 8:14)

*Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,<sup>15</sup> who, when they had come down, prayed for*

*them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

E. **Seal.** (Eph 1:13; 2 Cor 1:22)

F. **Anoint.** (1 Jh 2:20, 27).

### III. FOUR DISTINCT ELEMENTS TO BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

1) **Repent** of your sin towards God (2 Cor. 7:9; 1 Thes. 1:9)

2) **Believe** in the Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 15:11; Eph. 1:13)

3) **Be baptized** in water (Gal. 3:27; Eph. 5:26)

4) **Receive** the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22; Gal. 3:2)

Different combinations of the 4 elements are emphasized in different places in the book of Acts

A. **Acts 2.** Peter mentions repentance, baptism and reception of the Spirit. Faith is not mentioned but implied.

*Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

B. **Acts 8.** The Ethiopian was baptized.

C. **Acts 9** Paul is baptized and receives the Spirit. (Repentance and faith are not mentioned but implied).

D. **Acts 10** Corenius repented, believed, received the Spirit, and was baptized in water.

E. **Acts 16** The Philippian jailer believed and was baptized.

F. **Acts 19:1-7** Paul asks the disciples at Ephesus: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed. "They did not know of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It even seems that they might not be clear on who Jesus was. They had only repented of their sins. Now, they are now baptized in the name of Jesus (vs. 5), which implies that they believe in Him. Then they receive the Holy Spirit, who comes upon them when Paul lays his hands on them (vs. 6).

*Acts 19:2-7 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit"....<sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

G. We need to pursue each of the 4 elements. They do not happen to us automatically. In the New Testament, the reception of the Spirit is never identified or confused with any of the other elements. Each element is distinct.

H. It is also interesting that after Jesus' ascension, the emphasis of the New Testament is in believing in Jesus (who has ascended to the right hand of God) and receiving the Holy Spirit (who has been sent from above).

#### IV. THE RESULTS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. **Fruit** (Gal. 5:22-23). E.g. Love (Rom. 5:5) The fullness of the Holy Spirit can be considered a character trait (Acts 11:24)
- B. We receive **power** from on high to be witnesses of Jesus' resurrection (Acts 1:8).
- C. **Gifts** of the Holy Spirit are activated and manifested (1 Cor. 12-14).

#### V. PASSIONATELY PURSUING OR PASSIVELY INDIFFERENT

- A. Believe that the fullness of the Holy Spirit is for you. All spiritual blessings are for you (Eph. 1:3). It's the season to strike the ground (2 Kg. 3:18). Don't sell yourself short. You have not because ask not (James 4:2). We want the fullness of God.

***Eph. 3:19 ...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***

***1 Cor. 14:39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.***

- B. Some people are passive to the things of God. "If God wants to He will come and do it." It may sound somewhat spiritual, that we will let God do whatever He wants to, but it is not Biblical. You need to desire it and seek the Lord diligently (Luke 11:9-13). Suffers: permits, honors, allows, rewards spiritual violence. Spiritual violence is radical pursuit, refusing to be denied, refusing to come up with anything less than God's best for our lives.

***Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

***Matt. 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.***

***Luke 11:9-13 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"***