**Module**: The Foundation Doctrines of Christ

Session : The Baptism in the Holy Spirit - Part 2





In our previous session, we addressed the following questions:

1. Where in the Bible is the word 'baptism' used with reference to the Holy Spirit?

2. How many recorded incidences of the baptism in the Holy Spirit are there in the Bible?

3. Who baptises one in the Holy Spirit?

4. What exactly is baptism in the Holy Spirit?

5. What are the conditions for baptism in the Holy Spirit?

6. Is baptism in the Holy Spirit a separate experience from the indwelling Spirit?

In this part, we focus on the following:

7. What are some keys to receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

There are many factors or dispositions that facilitate the baptism in the Spirit. These are biblically rooted and are advised to be noted by all who not only seek to be baptised in the Spirit, but also seek to remain consistent in maintaining the infilling and flow of the Spirit's power in their lives. There are many keys. In this teaching, we will discuss perhaps the most important and fundamental keys - from a personal inward position. Other keys are taught in a special series on the Holy Spirit available on YouTube via this link: https://tinyurl.com/3mp3xsep

We will unpack the following six keys:

We are living in the Last Days

The Promise of the Father

Desire (Thirst)

<del>9 -</del> Ask

Receive by Faith

With or Without the Laying on of Hands

### দ (a) <u>WE ARE LIVING IN 'THE LAST DAYS'</u>

Prophetically, and by God's eternal and predetermined resolve, the baptism of the Spirit available to all sons of God, was specifically designated to be realised in the period in human history in which the Scriptures refer to as the "last days".

The prophet Joel prophesied the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Joel 2:28 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

Joel's prophecy started being fulfilled from the day of Pentecost onwards.

Acts 2:16,17 But this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS

In explaining what was happening to them, Peter connects the Holy Spirit baptism to Joel's prophecy, but contextualises its specific occurrence in time as being 'IN THE LAST DAYS'. As far as Peter was concerned, he was already living in the period of time referred to as 'the last days'. Biblically, the 'last days' actually began with the ministry of Jesus Christ according to Hebrews 1:1,2, and was clearly identified as a reality on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:16.

Hebrews 1:1,2a God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, IN THESE LAST DAYS has spoken to us in His SON, whom He appointed ...

We are still living in the last days, and hence the promise of the Holy Spirit Baptism is also for us today. This epoch of time, the 'last days', is a designated biblical period in human history in which certain foreordained events determined by God, the Father, must take place. For example, to mention a few, in the last days, "difficult or perilous times shall come" (2 Tim. 3:1); the spirit of mocking shall increase (2 Pet. 3:3); the church will be raised above all other spheres of influence and people shall stream into it to learn God's ways (Micah 4:1, Isa. 2:2).

All these are quite serious and significant things and therfore sons of God need to be equipped and resourced with all that God has designed for our effective functioning IN THE LAST DAYS. A critical component of this design is for all sons of God to be baptised in the Holy Spirit so that we might be effective witnesses for Christ in an increasingly wicked and perverse world. This generation is perverse and increasingly wicked. Darker days are ahead for the world, but the true Church will arise in light and righteousness. For us to fully represent God and effect His purposes with power, we need the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He is given for our help and empowerment. Without His enablement and attendant power, our efforts at doing God's will shall not reach its fullest possibilities. We cannot be the effective witnesses for Christ that God has called us to be, without the empowerment of the baptism in the Holy Ghost.

We are alive in this time, in which God has determined to be the most ideal season to pour out His Spirit. Bear this in mind, that when you ask God for the baptism in His Holy Spirit, that you could not be doing it at a more opportune time. The time is here and the time is now. These are the 'last days'.

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# (b) THE BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT IS A PROMISE OF THE FATHER

Some Scriptures refer to the baptism in the Spirit as 'the promise of the Father' or the 'gift of the Spirit'.

Luke 24:49

And behold, I am sending forth **THE PROMISE OF MY FATHER** upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are **clothed WITH POWER** from on **HIGH**."

Acts 2:38-39

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit. For THE PROMISE is for you and your CHILDREN and for all who are FAR OFF, AS MANY AS the Lord our God WIL CALL to Himself."

#### Note here:

- Note the relational dynamics in Acts 2:38-39 quoted above, with the focus on references to 'FATHER' and 'CHILDREN'. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gloriously wonderful and profound experience. The Spirit POWER attends you. BUT, realise that this experience is RELATIONAL, i.e. it is a PROMISE from a FATHER to SONS. As God's sons, we are eligible to access, embrace as our own and practically walk in all the promises of our Heavenly Father.
- The context of the verse above assumes an already existing relationship between sons and the Heavenly Father. Here again is proof that the initial salvation or new birth experience is an essential prerequisite to experiencing the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and that there is a distinction between the indwelling Spirit because you are saved and the baptism in or infilling with the Spirit.
- The Promise of the Father has to do with you being CLOTHED or ATTIRED with POWER.
  The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a baptism of POWER. More on this later.

Peter also references the baptism in the Spirit as a "Gift" and a Promise, identified by Jesus in Luke 24:49 as a Promise of the Father.

Acts 2:38-39

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit. For THE PROMISE is for you and your CHILDREN and for all who are FAR OFF, AS MANY AS the Lord our God WIL CALL to Himself."

### Note here:

- Again in Acts 2:38-39, the context is relational. Note the emphasis on 'children' and 'those whom God will call'.
- The baptism in the Spirit is an experience that people of all ages can experience, as long as they are sons of God. Little children and youth are included. This promise is for us "AND" our children, said Peter. John the Baptist was very unique in many respects and was filled with the Spirit whilst still in his mother's womb.

Luke 1:15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

• The 'promise' is even for those who are 'afar off' and 'for as many as the Lord SHALL call'. This includes you and I today within our time and dispensation. The Holy Spirit baptism was not an experience only earmarked for the early church, but for all children of God in every age. There is also prophetic Scriptural evidence from the book of Joel, to suggest that the outpouring of the Spirit will increase in intensity as the 'last days' progress towards a close. We can expect to experience greater and greater degrees or measures of His outpouring, even to the point of 'fullness'. God, our Father, is a Promise-Keeper', not a 'Promise-Breaker'. This 'promise' is for you, your sons and daughters.

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## (c) <u>DESIRE</u>

God honours hunger, thirst and passionate desire for things reflective of His will for us. God will never override your will in giving you something within His will, but which you do not personally want or desire. The Holy Spirit Himself is extremely sensitive and will not 'invade' your being and life if He is not actively invited and willingly accommodated.

Those who are blessed, hunger and thirst for righteousness - they shall be filled.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Righteousness is compliance to God's eternal and predetermined standards or designs, by which all of His sons should comply with and function in. Certainly, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is righteousness. Jesus insisted that John baptise Him in water so that He would 'fulfil all righteousness'. If baptism in water is a fitting expression of compliance to a righteous design of God, then so are all the baptisms, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

You must WANT to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. No person receives the baptism in the Spirit against their will. Not only must you desire it, but you must strongly desire it. To those whose desire is ardent and passionate, God will grant them the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is THIRSTY, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' "But this He SPOKE OF THE SPIRIT, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Jesus, earlier in John 4:14, described in the **indwelling Spirit** as a 'well within you springing up to eternal life'. Now in John 7, He describes the **baptism in the Spirit** as a **river of living waters**. Rivers speak of **abundance and fullness**. The two-fold dynamic of the Spirit baptism, viz. the **outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon you, and His filling up within you will release rivers within your innermost being.** 

Note the plural 'river(S)' is used. There is not just one river but many. The experience of the baptism in the Spirit is perpetual and recurrent. The measure you experience is usually determined by your obedience to God's Word, your unique assignment in God and of course, the degree of your desire and thirst. An important key identified by Jesus is 'THIRST' for this experience. You must want it and earnestly desire it.

## Go deeper in the experience of the Spirit.

In **Ezekiel 47:1-5**, the prophet Ezekiel was instructed to go into waters that ultimately became a river, both representations of the spirit.

#### **Ezekiel 47:1-5**

- Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar.
- 2 He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of the gate that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side.
- When the man went out toward the east with a **line in his hand**, he measured a thousand cubits, and **he led me** through the water, **water reaching the ankles**.
- Again he measured a thousand and **led me** through the water, **water reaching the knees**. Again he measured a thousand and **led me** through the water, **water reaching the loins**.

Again he measured a thousand; and <u>it was a river</u> that I could **not ford**, for the **water** had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be forded.

He was commanded to go deeper into the 'waters' from just ankle deep (Ezek 47:3), to knee deep and then to waist deep (Ezek. 47:4). Until this point, the elements in which he moved is described as 'water'. Then he is instructed to proceed deeper, and the waters suddenly became a river - until there were rivers to swim in (Ezek.47:5). The three references to 'water' could symbolically highlight our salvation experience, and the reference to 'river' is the baptism in the Spirit that is perpetual.

The deeper Ezekiel went, the lesser of him - the man or the flesh - was seen, and more of the Spirit was seen. Also the deeper he went, the lesser he could determine where to go, and the more the Spirit could direct his course. The deeper you go into the experience of the filling of the Holy Spirit, the less of your flesh is seen because carnality cannot abide in the river of the Spirit. Also, the deeper you go, the leadership of the Spirit takes on a more profound expression.

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# (d) <u>ASK</u>

Luke 11:11-13 Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 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?

Luke 11:11-13 highlights the absolute willingness on the part of God to give the Holy Ghost to whoever asks for it. Earthly fathers, who are essentially evil or carnal (without God) in nature, will not give something that will injure or hurt their sons. Their innate fatherly inclination to love and only give good things to their sons, is highlighted by Jesus. This is especially true when the request for the good thing comes from the sons. Comparing this natural proclivity of earthly natural fathers, to a heart disposition within the Heavenly Father who has a GOOD nature, Jesus uses the phrase 'HOW MUCH MORE' (v.13). In other words, HOW MUCH MORE will our Heavenly Father not just give good gifts to His children, but Jesus isolates something very

specific. He said how much will the FATHER give THE HOLY SPIRIT to those WHO ASK. The Spirit is not meant to harm the son but to empower the son.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is called the Gift of the Spirit (Acts 2:38). This gift is a GOOD and PERFECT gift meant for all sons of God. Every GOOD and PERFECT GIFT comes from the Father.

James 1:17 Every GOOD THING GIVEN and every PERFECT GIFT is from ABOVE, coming down from the FATHER OF LIGHTS, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

God, the Father, will give the Holy Spirit to any of His sons - because they are sons whom He loves and wants to empower. As a Father, He will not withhold this experience from any of us. As the Father gives the Holy Ghost, Jesus Himself will administer the baptism. So you have the combined activity of the entire god-head in this baptism as well - just as in water baptism.

I personally believe the verse quoted above has reference to the baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit and not in this instance, referring to the Spirit given as a witness to seal and confirm our sonship in Christ. The reason for this view is that Jesus already asked us to address God as 'Father', presupposing a relationship already exists between us and God.

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## (e) <u>RECEIVE BY FAITH</u>

This baptism requires simple child-like faith to receive it. When you desire this baptism and ask for it, have an internal and external posture of reception, and BELIEVE that you have received it.

Galatians 3:14 In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit THROUGH FAITH.

Given the context, Galatians 3:14 quoted above has reference to the new birth experience as explained earlier. This is received BY FAITH, and so is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In fact, anything we will receive from God is by faith. Faith is an unshakeable belief in the person,

principles, promises and purposes of God. It dismisses all doubt and fear and simply BELIEVES. When you ASK for the baptism in the Spirit, simply receive it by faith, without any doubt in your heart.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

Do not double-minded about this.

James 1:6,7 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is in keeping with God's will for His sons, and if we ask for anything in His will, He will give it to us.

1 John 5:14,15 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

When our desires align with God's will, He grants them to us.

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

### (f) WITH OR WITHOUT THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The baptism of the Holy Ghost may take place with or without someone laying their hands upon you.

#### Without the laying on of hands: Two biblical incidences.

- ✓ In **Acts 2**, the believers were simply **in prayer** when the Holy Ghost fell upon them and they were baptised.
- ✓ In Acts 10:44,45, the Holy Ghost fell on people while Peter was still preaching.

Wherever you are, even with no one praying over you, it is possible for you to call on God, your Father, and ask Jesus Christ to baptise you in the Holy Spirit. This applies to you alone or to groups of people. I have heard of legitimate and credible outpourings on an individual who was alone in their room and received the baptism in the Spirit.

In the case of the 120 people gathered in Acts 2, there were apostles present. In the case of the Spirit falling on the people in Cornelius' household, it occurred while Peter was preaching the Word. Peter represents the apostolic principle or apostolic grace. You do not need a legitimate apostle present to receive the baptism in the Spirit, but this baptism is more greatly facilitated when you are apostolically minded. This means you are desirous to mature in your sonship, to yearn to be righteously compliant to God's truth and way, and to be authentic. (For more on this view my teaching here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y5wkfb2">https://tinyurl.com/y5wkfb2</a>)

#### With the laying on of hands:

- ✓ In Acts 9:17, Ananias laid his hands on Saul.
- ✓ In Acts 8:16,17, Peter and John laid their hands on the Samaritan converts.
- ✓ In Acts 19:6, Paul laid his hands on John's disciples.

Who can lay their hands on others to receive the baptism in the Spirit? In the biblical examples quoted above, we have **Ananias**, who seems to be an **ordinary**, **yet mature believer**, and then of course the **apostles Peter**, **John and Paul**.

Firstly, it seems that any mature and Holy Spirit baptised or filled believer can lay their hands on another to receive this baptism. Ananias, who is simply described as a 'disciple'

(Acts 9:10) and not an apostle, laid his hands on Saul for the infilling of the Spirit. Caution must be noted here tough. The person laying their hands must have the characteristics reflected below.

Five Characteristic Traits of a Person Laying Their hands on Another:

- Reasonably Mature
- Filled with the Spirit themselves
- Full of Grace
- Be led by the Spirit as whether to lay hands or not
- Must follow all protocols governing the laying on of hands generally.

#### Be led by the Spirit as whether to lay hands or not

Ananias was instructed by God to go to Paul and specifically lay his hands on him to receive his sight and be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

#### Reasonably Mature

It is also my view that a reasonably **mature believer** should lay their hands on others in these cases, since Ananias, although only described as a 'disciple' in Acts 9:10, is alluded to by Paul as one whose **character is Christ-like** and **seemingly reasonably mature** (Acts 22:12).

Acts 22:12 A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well-spoken of by all the Jews who lived there.

There must be no spirit of pride, bitterness, unforgiveness, wickedness, malice or iniquity in someone intending to lay hands on others (See and Acts 8:9-25). In Samaria, Simon the sorcerer believed in Jesus Christ, was saved and saw that the Holy Spirit was received through the laying on of the hands of the apostles Peter and John. He offered them money so that they would grant him the power to lay his hands on others to receive the Spirit's baptism. He thought the capacity to lay hands on people in this way could be bought. They rebuked him sharply for this, saying ....

Acts 8:20-23 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."

Your heart might be surrendered to God, but not necessarily 'right' before the Lord.

There are some believers that should "have no part" in laying their hands on other believers for anything, let alone for the reception of the baptism in the Spirit.

## Filled with the Spirit themselves

Simon wanted to pray for people to be filled with the Spirit, when there is no record of him being filled with the Spirit. You cannot be used by God as a transmitter or conduit of anything spiritual to another, when you yourself have not personally and subjectivity entered into that same experience. This is especially true in the case of the baptism in the Spirit. Simon's motivation was wrong. He thought he could buy spiritual power with money.

#### Full of Grace

The name 'Ananias' means 'Jehovah is gracious'. Hence, his name alludes to his GRACE content. He is full of grace, which is the basis for flowing in the power of the Spirit ("And Stephen, full of grace and power..." Acts 6:8 - Nasb). Only a person who is rich in grace, because of their obedience to God's Word, and who themselves are baptised in the Spirit, should lay hands on others for the reception of the Holy Spirit.

Must follow all protocols governing the laying on of hands generally.

The laying on of hands must **not be done recklessly or thoughtlessly**, lest you PARTAKE in other men's sins.

1 Tim. 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. (KJV)

1 Tim. 5:22 Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin. (NASB)

DO NOT BOX GOD IN: In Acts 8, Peter and John laid their hands on Samaritan converts to receive the baptism in the Spirit. In Acts 10, people received the baptism in the Spirit without Peter laying his hands on them. This baptism can happen with or without the laying on of hands.

Having said all of the above, it does seems to be the case that the presence of apostles or an 'apostolic grace' facilitates this reception of the baptism more easily. To be clear, a legitimate apostle of God need not be present for this, but I have observed through experience that where a household of faith has authentic connections to apostolic grace via apostolic doctrine through a credible apostle, that the baptism in the Spirit is far more greatly facilitated.

#### To be Continued.

Great grace and peace be yours increasingly, Randolph Barnwell

[I advise you to consult an extensive series in 30 parts on the Person and Power of the Holy Spirit via the 'Holy Spirit Playlist' on the Gate Ministries Durban Central's YouTube Channel. This will give you an holistic understanding of the Holy Spirit. <a href="https://tinyurl.com/3mp3xsep">https://tinyurl.com/3mp3xsep</a>]