

Discipleship Training Course

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- Speech marks around entire quotes and at the beginning of new paragraphs have been omitted
- Anglicised spellings have been used
- All quotes begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop
- Some weights, measures and times have been replaced with easier to understand terms given in the footnotes using square brackets
- All verse numbers, footnote numbers and symbols have been removed
- Poetry has been indented and only new sentences start with a capital letter

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Chapter 5. Baptism in and filling with the Holy Spirit

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1. Introduction

1.1 Key Scripture

*Now on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink! **He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, from within him will flow rivers of living water.**" But He said this about the Spirit, which those believing in Him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus wasn't yet glorified.*

John 7:37-39 (WEBPB)

1.2 Main teachings

The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at His baptism and filled Him:

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by You," he said, "so why are You coming to me?"

But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize Him.

***After His baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on Him.** And a voice from heaven said, "This is My dearly loved Son, who brings Me great joy."*

Matthew 3:13-17 (NLT)

Jesus promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit that He would be with us and **in us**:

*If you love Me, keep My commandments. I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor, that He may be with you forever: the Spirit of truth, whom the world can't receive; for it doesn't see Him and doesn't know Him. You know Him, **for He lives with you, and will be in you.***

John 14:15-17 (WEBPB)

Jesus blew on the disciples and prophesied the gift of the Holy Spirit would which give them the authority to forgive sins:

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "**Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.**"*

John 20:21-23 (ESVUK)

The disciples were instructed to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit which would give them the power to witness:

Chapter 5. Baptism in and filling with the Holy Spirit

*The first book I wrote, Theophilus, concerned all that Jesus began both to do and to teach, until the day in which He was received up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. To these He also showed Himself alive after He suffered, by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about God's Kingdom. Being assembled together with them, He commanded them, "Don't depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from Me. For John indeed baptised in water, but **you will be baptised in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**"*

Therefore when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

*He said to them, "It isn't for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set within His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. **You will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.**"*

Acts 1:1-8 (WEBPB)

The Holy Spirit fell on the disciples on the Day of Pentecost, enabling them to speak in different human languages which were understood by the people visiting Jerusalem at the time. Peter received boldness by the Holy Spirit and explained that this was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh prophesied by Joel:

*Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. Suddenly there came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and one sat on each of them. **They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under the sky. When this sound was heard, the multitude came together and were bewildered, because everyone heard them speaking in his own language. They were all amazed and marvelled, saying to one another, "Behold, aren't all these who speak Galileans? How do we hear, everyone in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians: we hear them speaking in our languages the mighty works of God!" They were all amazed, and were perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" Others, mocking, said, "They are filled with new wine."*

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke out to them, "You men of Judea, and all you who dwell at Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to my words. For these aren't drunken, as you suppose, seeing it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what has been spoken through the prophet Joel:

*'It will be in the last days, says God,
that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh.
Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.
Your young men will see visions.
Your old men will dream dreams.
Yes, and on My servants and on My handmaidens in those days,
I will pour out My Spirit, and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the sky above,
and signs on the earth beneath:
blood, and fire, and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned into darkness,
and the moon into blood,*

before the great and glorious day of the LORD comes.

It will be that whoever will call on the Name of the LORD will be saved.'

Acts 2:1-21 (WEBPB)

Peter preached boldly and 3,000 souls were added to the Church on that same day (Acts 2:14-41).

When the disciples were persecuted they prayed and asked God for boldness to continue preaching the gospel. They were again filled with the Holy Spirit:

Being let go, they came to their own company and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, "O Lord, You are God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who by the mouth of your servant, David, said,

*'Why do the nations rage,
and the peoples plot a vain thing?
The kings of the earth take a stand,
and the rulers take council together,
against the LORD, and against His Christ.'*

For truly, in this city against Your holy servant, Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your council foreordained to happen. Now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to Your servants to speak Your word with all boldness, while You stretch out Your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

When they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were gathered together. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:23-31 (WEBPB)

Their experience was consistent with Paul's instruction to the Ephesians to be filled (present imperative tense) with the Holy Spirit:

And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit:

*Speaking to one another
in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,
singing and making music
from your heart to the Lord,
giving thanks always for everything
to God the Father
in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 5:18-20 (HCSB)

2. Other examples in Acts

Peter and John were sent to Samaria after the Jews there had received the gospel. They laid hands on the new believers that they might receive the gift of the Holy Spirit:

*Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for as yet He had fallen on none of them. They had only been baptised in the name of Christ Jesus. Then **they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.***

Acts 8:14-17 (WEBPB)

Ananias laid hands on Saul that he might receive the gift of the Holy Spirit:

Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

He said, "Behold, it's me, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judah for one named Saul, a man of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying, and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, that he might receive his sight."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he did to Your saints at Jerusalem. Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your Name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go your way, for he is My chosen vessel to bear My name before the nations and kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My Name's sake."

*Ananias departed and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight **and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**" Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he received his sight. He arose and was baptised. He took food and was strengthened. Saul stayed several days with the disciples who were at Damascus.*

Acts 9:10-19 (WEBPB)

The Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles at Cornelius' house and they started speaking in tongues:

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Acts 10:44-46a (ESVUK)

The believers in Corinth had only received the baptism of John. They were then baptised into the name of Jesus. As Paul placed his hands on them the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues:

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the upper country, came to Ephesus and found certain disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They said to him, "No, we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

He said, "Into what then were you baptised?"

They said, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John indeed baptised with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke with other languages and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all.

Acts 19:1-7 (WEBPB)

3. Discussion

We should follow the example of Jesus. The original purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit was to give us the boldness to witness to others. The Holy Spirit fills the room that has been swept clean:

When an unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places, seeking rest, and doesn't find it. Then he says, 'I will return into my house from which I came out,'

and when he has come back, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes, and takes with himself seven other spirits more evil than he is, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that man becomes worse than the first. Even so will it be also to this evil generation.

Matthew 12:43-45 (WEBPB)

The evidence of being baptised in the Holy Spirit is often speaking in tongues. However, this should not be over-emphasised as it is not taught as a requirement in the New Testament. We are, however, encouraged to be filled with the Holy Spirit continually and to earnestly desire the greater gifts, especially the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:1) and the gifts that build up the church (v. 6).

Baptism in the Holy Spirit was foreshadowed by **entering the Holy Place of the tabernacle** in which there is no natural light. In here we encounter the **golden lampstand** (Exodus 25:31-40), representing the Bible, the **table of show bread** (Exodus 25:23-30), representing fellowship and unity, and the **altar of incense** (Exodus 30:1-10), representing prayer and worship. It is through the baptism in the Holy Spirit that these spiritual disciplines take on a new dimension.

Some people claim that there is no baptism in the Holy Spirit but that everyone should seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit. However, this argument appears to be at odds with the testimonies from Acts given above. Some people claim that the Holy Spirit is not for today and that the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased when the Bible was canonised. However, this is mainly based on an incorrect interpretation of 1 Corinthians 13:10 which will be explained in the following chapter.