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according to
JESUS



Session 7

Holy Spirit Baptism

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7 Holy Spirit Baptism

“When I read the four Gospels, I’m sure more was said.”

“And when it comes to preparing the disciples for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, I’m sure a whole lot more was said too.”

Regeneration then Empowerment

It is Vital that We Know How the Holy Spirit Functions.

And when He directs, — we just need to get behind what it is that He is doing in us. Obviously there is a reason for why He does what He does, and yes He has an overall game plan, but inside that overall plan, lies a very unique and personal journey designed for each and every one of us!

We need to saddle up with Him, — for our heavenly Fathers desire is that we get to that place of empowerment. Holy Spirit is our teacher, as He directs, — and Holy Spirit is our comforter, as He takes us through those tough learning curves and bizarre experiences as He defines us into who we were always meant to be!

To be Regenerated, — and become born again by the Holy Spirit is one thing. To be baptized in the Holy Spirit is something completely different. The regenerating of the Holy Spirit aligns us for the Baptism that is needed to initiate service, — the two are actually one!

To be Empowered, — is to be Baptism with the Holy Spirit. And this empowering in the Holy Spirit is something completely separate from the regenerating Holy Spirit process that we find ourselves walking in when we became born again.

Titus 3:5-6 Talks about the Regeneration Process

In Titus 3:5-6 It talks about the regeneration process: It states that He saved us by the renewing and restoring of us spiritually, through a regeneration done by the Holy Spirit, — whom He poured out upon us abundantly through accepting Jesus as our personal Savior. Once Holy Spirit starts the regeneration process, — the house is now being renovated. Your body is being redesigned to be His new temple, His new dwelling place.

In Acts 1:5 It talks about how the Baptism of the Holy Spirit first came on the scene. Jesus said: “Wait for the Promise of the Father” and the promise is that "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not to many days from now." Obviously, they the apostles, were not Baptized with the Holy Spirit yet.

But even during their regeneration process, — prior to their Pentecost upper room experience, Jesus still sent them out, — 70 at one time were sent out to go and test the waters. And they all came back with amazing reports. What they experienced was a small taste of what Holy Spirit really had for them.

So likewise, we ourselves have received answered prayers during our own regenerative experience. But when they, the apostles, finally did receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, — what they did in one day exceed what they accomplished during the three years they spent with Jesus.

In Luke 24:49 It goes into detail about what the promise of the Father actually is: “ Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you so remain in the city until you are endued with power, until you are equipped with power, until you are clothed with power from on high.”

In Acts 2:39 It clearly states: For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all that are afar off, and whomever the Lord brings on board. This promise of empowerment was not just for the apostles, but for all. In other words, it was a promise to them, to all the generations, including you and I.

In Luke 11:13 It states: “ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? ”

Baptism was Never Meant to be a Complicated Thing

So based on scripture, — it is obvious that regeneration is one thing, and that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is something on a whole different level. But again, — the two are one! One can be regenerated and not be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

If a man has experienced the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, he is no doubt born again and saved, — but has he been fully empowered and commissioned to take on the Fathers business? Well that only happens when he receives the Baptism of the Holy Spirit where He is empowered from on high.

During the regenerating process, we are being molded for service and our character is being defined by the experiences that Holy Spirit puts us through. But when you are baptized in the Spirit, you are now being equipped and empowered for the battlefield, — for the harvest field.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is always connected with testimony and service. Primarily, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is for empowering us personally and for empowering us corporately for the task at hand.

Yes Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, and yes Holy Spirit convicts us unto righteousness, but to be baptism in the Holy Spirit is to be empowered, and to be mobilized.

Look at the apostles, when baptized by the Holy Spirit, they did more in one day than they did during the previous three years.

So How did Regeneration & Empowerment Start?

The Day of Pentecost was a set time on the heavenly calendar for the original releasing of the Holy Spirit, and that measure, that outpouring, of the Holy Spirit could not be given until that targeted day of a gathering in an upper room actually showed up. According to heaven, — that set time was marked on the calendar a long time ago.

As we go deep into the book of Acts, there is no longer any waiting time for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost has come, the Holy Spirit landed, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit is now up for grabs.

Men only have to wait when they do not meet the conditions, In other words when Christ is not fully accepted, or when sin is not completely dealt with, or if total surrender is missing, where other things have priority, or if selfish reasons have not been dealt with in regards to personal and corporate gain. The absence of some of these things keeps many waiting for days, months, and sometimes years.

Again, — there really is no need for any one to wait. We call them conditions but it's really about bringing everything into alignment. It's not the repenting and the renouncing of some of the things that I just mentioned, — or the repenting and renouncing of the many. Nor is it the repenting and renouncing of most, that will get us empowered.

It Really Comes Down to All, — A Total Surrender

It really comes down to all, a total surrender, and walking in complete obedience that'll get us through the front doors of empowerment! It's repenting and renouncing all, of what you know, that is front and center in your life. Jesus came to exemplify and model what that total surrender looks like as He tended to His Father's business only! He surrendered to only do what His Father was doing, He surrendered His life to the cross.

We read about the manifested God in the flesh washing feet, surrendering His life to serve, — and be that living sacrifice. It's amazing how many are looking for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for all the wrong reasons, for selfish reasons, for their own glory, for the ministry of their choosing.

It is for these reasons many are still waiting. Stubborn and rebellious, many have fallen into the counterfeit as they continued to push the envelope, push their agendas while Holy Spirit has them on hold!

Have you ever wondered why there are thousands of denominations, why there are hundreds of religions? Have you ever wondered why most walk in a powerless gospel?

Will You Lay it All Down ?

So the question is, — “ Is your will laid down? ” If not, then that leads to the second question, “ Are you willing to lay it down? ” Well if that answer is still up in the air then we need to go to the third question, “ Are you willing for God to lay it down for you? ” If the answer to that question is YES! Well you are now on your way, because that prayer alone will direct you towards the breakthrough you need for empowerment.

Holy Spirit brings the character and ministry of Jesus to us so that Heavenly Father can be glorified. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus in me becomes a very reality. This process of walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit is a challenge that we all find ourselves walking through.

First is the process of His regeneration into His likeness and character, and then the empowering follows where God is truly being glorified.

The regeneration is a necessary preparation for service. The regeneration process is to ensure that the power does not take you out. It's in the regeneration process that we get our first glimpses on how the kingdom actually functions. Kinda like training wheels.

It's All About the Needed Alignment

When the apostles were endued with power, they accomplished more in one day than what they previously accomplished themselves in the last 3.5 years that walked with Jesus. Nobody in his or her right mind would hand a loaded 45-Caliber gun to an untrained handler. Well so it is in the Spirit!

A cleansing work by the Holy Spirit is needed to eradicate us from that sinful nature of mishandling a powerful Kingdom. It is this cleansing process that eventually helps in our maintaining of what it is to truly “ Walk in the Spirit ”.

It can be a quick work, — but in most cases it is a slow and painful work as it steers us into the needed alignment. It is amazing how many times people have gone around the same old mountain.

The quicker we walk into total surrender, the quicker the process.

Quick note:

Sure you can slide one past your spouse, and you may be able to slide one past those that you hang out with, but try and slide one past the Holy Spirit! Well that's not gonna happen! Transparency is huge when it comes to surrender, and huge when it comes to empowerment.

The Perfect Sacrifice

We need to lay it all down! The “ Will ” needs to be laid down. As we lay it all down, Holy Spirit then comes and totally consumes the whole offering. Like in Leviticus, it mentions a fire that came from the Lord to consume the whole sacrifice, the whole offering that was on the altar, and so must we place our whole self before the Lord to receive that baptism of fire from the Holy Spirit. Without the whole sacrifice, there is no fire.

In Romans 12:1 it states: “ I urge you therefore, brethren, by Gods wonderful mercies, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, doing this will empower you that you may prove the will of your heavenly Father.”

It's not a piece of us that He is looking for, nor is He willing to settle for a good chunk of us, — it's all of us! He wants all of us! It needs to be a total surrender. With that, — the fire will come, the sacrifice will be consumed, — BOOM! Look out! Now you're dangerous!

We Need To Do An Honest Search

A much deeper search is needed at times. Why can I not let go? Why is it that I am constantly indulging in this? To ask God to enter into the search makes complete sense when you read Psalm 139.

Psalm 139 Here's a condensed version:

You know me Oh God. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, you are acquainted with all my ways. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? Search me, O God, you know my heart; Try me, you know my anxieties; See if there is any wicked way in me. Lead me, Oh Lord, in the way of everlasting.

Obviously asking Him to enter into the search makes sense. And once the search is completed, and you have completely surrendered your life , baptism follows very quickly as He now empowers you for service.

When you transition over from being regenerated, — to one being empowered, — your whole heart needs to play a big part in the transition. No different than the sacrifice needing to play its whole part.

To be empowered, — and play your part in taking care of the Fathers business is an incredible honor. To walk in the fullness of that is part of the great adventure that Holy Spirit has for us.

Luke 11:13

“ 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! ”

Psalm 84:11

“ No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

The Regeneration Process

Regeneration – Conviction unto Sin

The regeneration process carries the conviction unto sin.

- We become “Born Again” and He gets us to do a 180-degree turn.
As a newbie in this whole born again adventure, He plucks us out of the many fires that we find ourselves freely walking in.
- Our carnal nature has us sneaking around all over the place walking through doors that we need to start closing.
- He gets us to read the word – as He lines us up on what it is that we need to be doing, and what we need to let go.
- He continually convicts us of the sin that we keep entertaining as He tries to steer our lives away from the many troubled waters.
- He tries to get us in that still place of prayer. We have this thing of just wanting to be all over the map, — so He tries to still us so that we can listen and pray.
- Always present 24/7, — He continually wants to breath a freshness upon our sails as He helps us move forward. Holy Spirit is determined to establish a good work in us!

This process goes on and on until a time comes during the regeneration process where the needed alignment for empowerment has been established, — where Jesus has been fully accepted.

Where sin has been hammered out! Where total surrender has been brought to the table! When regeneration process brings us to this place, — we are now on our way for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit! Again, that is something that can instantly happen, or it could take years!

Baptism in the Holy Spirit Process

Baptism in the Holy Spirit – Conviction unto Righteousness

Baptism of the Holy Spirit carries the conviction unto righteousness

- Baptism comes and we are now empowered.
- No doubt we will stumble and fall, we are still a work in progress.
- Empowered for service, warfare is now on a whole different level as our training continues.
- As warfare increases you may hit the ground. And during those times, as you try and roll with the punches, you may dabble with that old carnal nature. Feeling out of it, you start entertaining stuff that you thought was all dealt with.
- Holy Spirit now convicts us to do what is right! We obviously know better, so the Holy Spirit now comes to convict us unto righteousness, to make things right, — and to move on.
- He stands us up, He dusts us off, He refreshes us, He refills us, and hits us with more fire as He refines us even more.
- Now He encourages us as He points the way for us to go. Then He sends us off once again, hopefully walking with greater wisdom and greater understanding on how everything all works together and how to be more dynamic spiritually.

Without Baptism it's Tough to go the Distance

It's absolutely amazing how many have run the good race and have never been baptized by the Holy Spirit!

Without the baptism, — batteries will be running low for anything called ministry. It's almost like an unqualified feeling because you sense a lack of empowerment. You find it tough to go the distance and you're always waiting for that second wind as you continually hit the wall!

You may have been prophetically spoken over about a power ministry but in essence, that ministry is waiting for your complete surrender.

Without Complete Surrender

Without complete surrender, the motivation is wrong, especially if people around you are pumping up your tires, or if you're pumping up your own tires about a ministry that you would love to see turn into a full time job.

As years go by without the needed surrender, — and mix that in with our determination to walk where you think you need to be, — that rebellion and stubbornness will continually take us around the mountain.

This counterfeit is so close to the real deal, — but it is far from it. Without proper alignment, — whatever discernment that we once walked in, now gets all blurred up even more, as it distracts us from hitting the mark!

A genuine baptism will cause those empowered, — to be the greatest servant of all, as they release what has been freely given. The counterfeit always wants to be served, where releasing anything usually comes with a price tag. Marketing, — in many cases, has replaced the anointing.

We really need to totally surrender if we plan to go the distance and step into all that the Lord has for us.

Hebrews 4:6

Since therefore the promise remains that some were designed to enter in, and those to whom it was first preached, — did not enter in, because of disobedience. When you apply that scripture to today, it's amazing how many of those whom it was first preached to in our days, have entered into the false

Fathers Desire is that You be Baptized

It is the Lords desire that we are baptized, not only baptized in water but also by the fire of the Holy Spirit. That was always His desire. That was always part of the plan that we eventually be baptized in the Holy Spirit and be endued with power from up high, that we enter into and walk in the promise given.

Acts 2:38,39

And Peter said to them, Turn from your ways, accept Jesus and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins are forgive. Peter continues to say: Then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, — for the promise of the Holy Spirit is for you, and your children, and for all who are far away including the Gentiles, whomever the Lord invites.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

When we bring it all into alignment, we now have a right to receive! Believe and receive! If sin has been searched out and there is complete surrender of your life to God, then you should be able to ask the Lord to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. And when you do, — get ready to receive!

Refilling, Refreshing, Renewing

Peter, in the book of Acts was filled a number of times, — 3 times to be exact that we know of. It is always good to get refilled for each new service, for each new assignment, for each new day!

2 Timothy 1:6

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of hands.

(It is always good to pray for one another so that we can walk in the maximums that the Lord has for us)

Many Have Been Sidelined

Many, after being baptized in the Holy Spirit, empowered for service, have been sidelined and now walk in a compromised gospel that is nothing close to what it once was.

For myself, after engaging in the Book of Acts for a number of years, I ended up marring my best friend, kids came on the scene, family was now a reality along with running 2 businesses to help support it all. The managing of all that took its toll as my walk with the Lord was thinned right down.

I was now representing a kingdom that had a whole different look. I was not one to give up, but you could not compare how we walked during those early years. We went from being on the front lines empowered by the Holy Spirit, to becoming spectators.

Our Busyness Compromises Us

Somehow in our busyness along with being schooled by the religious, we surrender that place where God had us separated unto Himself.

That holy consecrated place where we found ourselves handling the Fathers business where we went from one assignment to the next.

That place where we were not listening to the voices of the world, nor the ongoing voices coming out of the religious structures, but listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit only. It's amazing how many of us have surrendered that place where God separated us unto Himself.

In our compromises, we ended up blurring the waters where we no longer prioritized the Fathers business but have accommodated a more comfortable position where the conditions or the alignment for the baptism of the Holy Spirit were no longer being applied.

Where Jesus in me was compromised, sin now had its share of loose ends. Where total surrender was missing because of our new priorities. Where selfishness has stepped in as we try and make all the pieces fit our way.

Where self-denial and the gratification of the flesh have converged somewhere along the journey. Where our impulses are now over reaching into territory that were once hands off. Where we have compromised from taking care of those around us to taking care of ourselves and our personal luxuries where money is now getting us into all kinds of problems.

Then There is Pride

And then there's pride, — if pride entered in during the regeneration process, then because of pride, many never made it to the empowerment level, — but it's amazing how many think they have! And that's because the counterfeit stepped in creating a very busy environment that had a commissioning feel to it.

For those that have walked into pride, after being baptized in the Spirit, are in most cases, now representing a powerless gospel that at one time started out very powerful.

Walking in this place will always lead to a religious gospel that comes with multiple strongholds, religious structures fueled by the undercurrents of the demonic, — a powerful counterfeit that misrepresents everything including worship, intercession and the prophetic.

Compromises and the Alternative Kingdom

Walking in these compromises usually lands us in an alternative kingdom, which is nothing close to the kingdom that we started out with. As we pursue this alternate kingdom, — prayer and reading of the word usually gets placed on the back shelf.

Power is lost

Power is lost through neglect of prayer. It is in prayer where we are charged with the energy of God. It is the man who spends much time in prayer to whom God's power and presence flows mightily from.

Goodness, truth and the power of God constantly flows from us, and if power is to be maintained, it needs to be consistently renewed in prayer. Like a vehicle battery, it needs to be connected to the generator. So must we be connected to the one who generates spiritual power.

Many good men, whom God used in the past, — have picked up bad habits and sidelined their prayer life, — and gone is the power that once was.

Power is also lost through neglecting the Word. Many have known the power that comes through reading and meditating upon the Word, but the word was crowded out, and once again power has gone.

We need to tap into the written word and the rhema word daily to maintain the power that'll give us the breakthrough that we need daily. In their business, many a men have let the well run dry.

If there is one thing that is hard to watch, that is watching someone you know losing the power of God. To having known God's power, having been used by Him, and then seeing that power withdrawn. Many a men still praise him, but God is not able to use him because of the disconnect.

YES! — We really do need those continual infillings that comes with the fire of the Holy Spirit. You know, our heavenly Father went at great lengths to separate us unto Himself, having His Son personally sign each and every one of those adoption papers.

He not only desires that we walk in our full potential, but that we consistently stay at that place of full potential as we powerfully demonstrate His Kingdom. There really is a partnership here!

The continual infilling gives the continual increasing of power needed for the service that we are called into. To walk in power, He the Holy Spirit needs to be in control. For Him to be in control, we need to be at that place of rest, that place of surrender, and when dwell in that place of rest, — Holy Spirit can now move above and beyond our imagination when it comes to displaying the kingdom of heaven on the Fathers behalf.

Now that we are part of the Lords family, How about we let Holy Spirit empower us, and let Him release us!

Preparing for Group Prayer

In a moment I am going to ask you all to stand, and lead you all in a prayer where I will ask Holy Spirit to come and baptize you.

And for those who have been baptized in the past, I am going to ask for a fresh infilling of fire and empowerment.

And because these prayers are in accordance to His will as mentioned in 1st John 5:14, — we need to be ready to receive.

1st John 5:14 clearly states: “And this is the confidence that we have in him, — that if we ask anything according to his will, — He hears us.”

This is His will, and you have lined ourselves up according to His will.

During the prayer you will be asking to receive the Holy Spirit. When we get to this point, — you need to be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

You will sense His presence as He starts to move deep within, — deep within your inner most being.

When it gets to that point you need to receive the Holy Spirit. You need to respond by saying: “ I receive you Holy Spirit ! ”

Some of you will then begin to speak as the Holy Spirit gives you utterance, and this is not being generated from your mind, but it’s being generated from your spirit.

It is from your spirit where you will sense the Presence of God increase inside of you.

As you begin to pray in the Spirit, you will say words that you may not understand.

When this happens, don’t be afraid. Just continue to speak for it is the Holy Spirit that is pouring Himself upon you.

God is filling you up with His Spirit. God is filling you up with the Spirit of Promise!

Group Prayer, — Repeat After Me

Everyone now needs to stand

Jesus,

Thank-you for sending us the Holy Spirit. According to your Word, I was always meant, to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, I come into agreement, and into alignment, for the Holy Spirit to be in my life. You have spoken about the Spirit of Promise. And since the Day of Pentecost, we no longer, need to wait for that Promise. I prophesy that baptism, into MY existence today.

I have repented, and renounced, the sins that have so easily captivated me. I commit my life, to you Jesus! And I stand, on the promise, that I will baptize, with your Holy Spirit!

Jesus, I come now before you, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I come before you, completely surrendered. I come to receive, the Fathers Promise, of the Holy Spirit.

Your word to us, is that whoever asks, receives. Therefore I am asking, to receive, what you have promised.

Empower me, and fill me, to overflowing. I hold nothing back from you. I completely surrender my life.

Let the gifts of the Holy Spirit, come alive in me now. Let your kingdom come, your will be done !

Lord, right now, in Jesus Name, I pray that the Holy Spirit would come, and baptize me NOW ! Fill this temple NOW !