

LESSON 4



HOLY SPIRIT INFILLING

Scripture Texts: John 14:16-17; Romans 5:1-2; Acts 19:1-6; Luke 11:13

To receive the Spirit we must first be born again. We must accept in faith God's promise to give the Spirit. We must open our hearts to Him in complete yielding. Here again, it is not possible to cover this vast subject in the limited space and time allowed for one lesson. The Bible does prove that it is a vital part of full salvation. Most of the weaknesses and shortcomings in the lives of saints are the result of a lack of God's Spirit in the heart. God's plan is that every one of His children be filled with the Holy Spirit. Our study of the Holy Spirit will mean nothing to us unless we ourselves receive Him into our hearts. Let us study, very briefly, how that is done.

MEMORY VERSE: *I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.*

Mark 1:8

The Promise of the Spirit

John 14:16-17 The Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive—The "world" is people who live in sin and are out of connection with God. One who is a sinner has no connection through which to receive the Spirit of God. The Spirit does not cleanse from sin. The blood of Jesus does

that. Sin must be gone before one is ready to ask for the Spirit's filling. Jesus meets the sinner and his need; the Holy Spirit meets the one already free from the guilt of sin. God never did and never will dwell in an unsanctified (unclean) temple. The first step is to repent of one's sins, believe on Jesus as God's Son, and accept Him as one's Savior. To call for an infilling of the Holy Spirit before this has been done only opens one's life wide for some other spirit to come in and deceive his heart.

A Work of Faith

Romans 5:1 Being justified by faith . . . we have access by faith into this grace—Justified first, then **this grace** which is baptism of the Spirit, **access** into it is **by faith**. One must believe and look to God for it, assured that He will give it. Faith is more than a head knowledge, or belief. It is a reaching out and taking hold with the heart. **Grace**—a free gift of God. **Wherein we stand**—continuing, abiding, and strong. **And rejoice**, unspeakable joy. **In hope of the glory of God**—looking for more as the glory of God is increased in our lives. Each individual must offer himself in complete dedication to God and must be clean and holy (Romans 12:1).

In the Old Testament type, the offering or sacrifice had to be offered in full accordance to God's instructions and plan. If it was acceptable to God, the fire consumed the sacrifice. If not, the smoke went down and was not accepted. One is only made acceptable by being sanctified by the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:16). We are nothing of ourselves, but when the Holy Ghost moves in He sanctifies (sets apart for the purpose of glorifying God) the gift and raises it to something good and beautiful and useful and acceptable to God.

Something More Than Water

Acts 19:1 Paul . . . finding certain disciples—followers of Christ, saved people—This is one of many examples of saints receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:2-4 Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?—Something in addition to the first believing and birth into the kingdom. There was progress to be made. But these Christians had not made it. They had **not so much as heard** of the Spirit. They were baptized only **unto John's baptism** (Matthew 3:1-11). If John would not baptize with water those who had not been converted, why should we expect Christ to baptize unconverted ones with the Holy Spirit? John pointed ahead to something more to come—Jesus Christ. What promise was in Christ? **He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire** (Matthew 3:11).

When they heard this—More honest-hearted than some, they acted on the light they received. They were believers, followers, saved. The truly saved need but to see the truth to step out and accept it, as these did. **They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**—That name signifies all that He is and all He has promised. Oh, what power in the name Jesus! They accepted the promise, did their part, committed themselves, and looked for its fulfillment.

The Holy Ghost came on them—He will on anyone who opens up a cleansed and fully-yielded heart to Him. Immediately the Spirit began to act in them. **They spake with tongues**—languages they had not learned—**and prophesied**—spoke God's message, not their own thoughts, but that given them by God.

Ask and Receive

Luke 11:13 If ye . . . give good gifts . . . how much more shall your heavenly Father—He wants us to have Him even more than we can want Him. He planned it all. But we must **ask him**. It need not be in audible voice, but surely must be the desire of the heart, must be the lifting up of an open, clean, emptied heart to God for Him to take and fill and use. **Ask**, ask and receive.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not dependent upon outward circumstances or a knowledge of terms and processes. Some people have obtained this blessing who did not know what it was. They never asked for it in words. They just longed to have all of God and for God to have all of them and lifted open hearts to Him to be filled. The one who feels this need bows down to God. In spirit he throws himself down in complete submission and surrender to the will of God. He drops all plans and ambitions he has, and relinquishes any hold self and the world have on him. His only desire is, "O God, fill me, take me, and use me just as Thou will." Such a surrender is **a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God**.

Ask Yourself

Can He have my life to use as He pleases? Can He have my possessions for His use? Can He have my talents, thoughts, tongue, eyes, hands, and feet? Can I take the reproach of Christ upon myself and live only for His glory? It is well worth it to be able to answer yes.

JUST A THOUGHT

The best gift to the world is the gift of yourself to God.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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