

SCHOOL OF KNOWING AND SERVING GOD

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TEACHING ON BASIC DOCTRINES

UNIT 2

"THE WAY OF OBEDIENCE"

## LESSON 2: BAPTISM INTO THE HOLY SPIRIT



## INTRODUCTION

Water baptism or immersion and baptism into the Holy Spirit were experienced in a symbolic way by the people of Israel when they came out from Egypt. They had been faced with a situation of conflict: Pharaoh and his entire army had set out after them to fight and bring them back to Egypt. It was in this state of conflict that the Lord deemed it necessary to let His people come through a double experience in the sea and in the pillar of cloud.

The pillar of cloud that was before them moved and stood behind them. To get behind the people of Israel, this cloud had to pass through their camp, in order to stand between them and the Egyptians, thus separating both camps. The part of the cloud that faced the Egyptians was dark, but that facing the people of God shone, giving them light at night (Exodus 14: 19-31).

Egypt represents the world; crossing the sea symbolizes the believer's baptism into water and the movement of the cloud through the camp of the people of Israel symbolizes the believer's baptism into the Holy Spirit.

That is why the apostle Paul said, "I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses IN THE CLOUD AND IN THE SEA" (I Corinthians 10:1-2). Both baptisms are necessary, distinct and separate experiences. Their baptism in the cloud, which is equivalent to the believer's baptism into the Holy Spirit, took place at their hour of greatest need. They were greatly threatened and frightened and, at that point, God came down upon them in great power for, "The angel who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud (the Holy Spirit) moved from before them and stood behind them" (Exodus 14 : 19). The baptism into the Holy Spirit is for those who are faced with a situation of conflict and who are helpless. It is for those who have come to the end of themselves. The baptism into the Holy Spirit is not therefore a mere experience at will. It is available as a necessity for those who cannot continue anymore even for one day without the promised power, for the experience is always accompanied by power for spiritual warfare. That is why in promising to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles, the Lord Jesus immediately made them understand that



the purpose was to have them armed for the warfare of witnessing; for when mention is made of power it is immediately understood that there is some opposition involved. The Lord Jesus Himself had need of this Holy Spirit power, and was baptized into the Holy Spirit before beginning His ministry. In our present study, we will see historical cases of the baptism into the Holy Spirit as narrated in the Bible, We will equally see who the Holy Spirit Himself is, and that the Lord Jesus today still baptizes all those who desire the baptism into the Holy Spirit.

#### REMINDER

The present course is the second in a series of six courses on basic teachings on the Christian life, contained in the first six books of "The Christian Way Series", whose author is Dr. Zacharias Tanee FOMUM.

The content of three lessons in this course is the reproduction of the book entitled The Way of Obedience. I have, however, deemed it necessary to modify some of the teachings in order to present them in the form of a Bible Course.

I encourage you to get a Bible for personal purposes of reference to check the exactitude of the Bible passages quoted in this course.

However, no coherent Bible course, no matter how complete, can ever replace the systematic reading of the Bible. For this reason, our prime objective will only be attained if we, through this course, succeed in arousing in the student both the enjoyment and habit of drawing from the source of the teachings itself, that is, the Bible.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the word of God is watertight, closed to all who trust in their intelligence, for it is with the Spirit that the things of God are perceived and understood. Do not, therefore, forget before each reading, to ask God to help you understand His word.

May God bless you!



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## POINTS TO REMEMBER



## Some Historical Examples

### The baptism of Jesus Christ

"And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him ; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased' (Matthew 3 : 16-17).

The baptism of Jesus was promised:

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him" (Isaiah 11: 1-2).

And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit '" (John 1: 32-33).

The baptism of Jesus into the Holy Spirit took place after His baptism into water. The,

God of heaven could have poured out His Holy Spirit on His Son before the Son was baptized into water but He did not. Thus, in the baptism of His Son into the Holy Spirit after the Son's baptism into water, He set His normal and usual way for all the other sons whom He was to acquire unto Himself through the obedience of the only begotten one. "For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin.

That is why He is not ashamed to call them brethren " (Hebrews 2: 10-11).

The baptism of Jesus into the Holy Spirit was different from His being born of the

Spirit: the Jordan experience during which Jesus was baptized into the Holy Spirit was quite different from what happened to Him at His birth. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He possessed the Holy Spirit in all His fullness from the moment that He was conceived in Mary's womb.



Throughout His life, up to that Jordan experience, He was filled with the Holy Spirit for there was nothing sinful in Him to usurp the place of the Holy Spirit. However, born of the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit as He was, He did not dare to start His public ministry without the Holy Spirit coming upon Him in the special way that it did at the Jordan. That Jordan experience was a unique, unrepeatable experience for Him. It was a special anointing; a special clothing with the Holy Spirit and with power for the task which God had in mind for Him. The Bible says, "you know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power ; how He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him " (Acts 10 : 38) .

The baptism of Jesus into the Holy Spirit was accompanied by signs that were visible:

God had told John that He (God) would have a sign that would confirm to John the fact that Jesus was the Baptizer into the Holy Spirit.

John said, "I myself did not know Him. But He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Holy Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit' (John 1: 33). God decided that there should be a convincing sign at the baptism of His Son into the Holy Spirit. He said that John should look for a sign as a confirmation and, surely, the sign was there! The Bible says, "And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and HE SAW the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him ; and lo, a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased " (Matthew 3 ; 16-17). John did not only see the Spirit. He also heard a voice. So, at the baptism of Jesus into the Holy Spirit, there was both something to see and to hear that were out of the normal. Jesus is the standard. At every normal baptism into the Holy Spirit, there would always be something unusual to see and hear.

The baptism of Jesus into the Holy Spirit led Him into conflict and a deeper search for fellowship with God. The baptism of Jesus into the Holy Spirit was not immediately followed by ministry in the seen realm. It did not immediately lead Him to a display of power. It did not lead Him to win the acclaim of men. Rather? The Holy Spirit into which He had been baptized



led Him into the wilderness for conflict with the devil. Carnal people would have said like the devil did, "you have received the indispensable anointing. Go out and do this and that". He instead took a long fast perhaps the longest of His earthly ministry. His baptism into the Holy Spirit was immediately followed by this time of consolidation through fasting.

After His baptism, He did not rush to the world. He rushed to God. He sought God in a new way, a costly way through forty days of fasting. He did not only seek God, He fought the devil and won there in the privacy of the wilderness. Could the lack of this be the reason behind the current impotent Pentecostalism? Could that be the reason why the early church seemed to have lost most of her dynamism even before the end of the first century? For Jesus it was:

- The dove (the baptism)
- The wilderness (seclusion, privacy)
- Fasting (deeper search and fellowship with God)
- The devil (victory over Satan in the unseen realm before coming into public ministry to face him in the seen realm).

I believe strongly that this is God's pattern for the hour for His body. It has always been His pattern, whether or not it has been followed.

#### The first Pentecost

It was promised

Jesus told His disciples, "You are witnesses of these things, and behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24: 48-49). The Bible says, "And while staying with them, He charged them, not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, 'you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 1: 4-5)

what it was to be

- 1- It was to be a clothing with power from on high (from God through Christ) for the task of preaching repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus by those whose life had experienced the transforming touch of Jesus.
- 2- It was to be the receiving of the promise of the Father.



3- It was to be the coming upon them of the Holy Spirit in a special way resulting in their receiving power for world evangelism (Acts 1 : 8).

What took place in the heavenlies?

The disciples could not be baptized with the Holy Spirit while Jesus was on earth for although He was the baptizer and fully present, He was not yet glorified. The Bible says, "On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, 'if anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me as the Scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water'. Now this He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive ; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7 : 37-39). On the day of Pentecost Peter said, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this which you see and hear" (Acts 2: 32-33). So in the heavenlies:

- 1) The resurrection of Jesus.
- 2) The exaltation of Jesus (The enthronement).
- 3) Jesus received the Holy Spirit from the Father.
- 4) He poured Him on the disciples.

What took place in heaven produced results on earth. There was clear evidence on earth, for it resulted in what could be seen and heard.

Preparation for the first Pentecost

The first thing that was done in preparation was separation from the world. The small company of believers returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, entered a house in Jerusalem and went to the upper room where they were staying (Acts 1: 12-13). They were separated from the world and also separated from anyone else who did not care nor want the baptism into the Holy Spirit. They were also separated from sin for how could they wait upon the Lord with sin still in their hearts? There were separated unto God. God was their sole concern and their sole comfort. They wanted Him.



The second thing was that they were united. The Bible says, "All of these with one accord..."(Acts 1:14). They were not divided in their expectation. They all knew what was promised and they waited for it. It is close to impossible to have a band of quarrelling, divided people assembled together, receive the Lord's power. The crucial thing was not just that they were together under one roof. The crucial thing was that they were of one mind. There was no division on the basis of sex. The men were there as well as the women for God does not discriminate.

The third thing is that they were devoted to prayer. They did not just pray. They were devoted to it. They made it their primary concern. They made it their only concern. Devotion to prayer was the key to events that followed. They knew that when the Lord Jesus had taught concerning persistence in prayer (Luke 11: 1-13), he had ended up by saying, "if you who are evil, know how to give gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the holy spirit to those who ask him?" (Luke 11: 13). They knew that the father was anxious to give them the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised but they also knew that there could be wicked interfering spirits that would block and hinder (Daniel 10: 2-21). This knowledge made them devote themselves to prayer.

The fourth thing is that they thirsted and wanted to drink. Jesus had said to them, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink" (John 7: 37). So great was their thirst for the Holy Spirit that they were prepared to devote themselves to prayer unceasingly for ten days before the Holy Spirit came upon them; and I believe they could have gone on with the same devotion had the Lord waited for weeks before pouring out the Holy Spirit. This thirsting, this willingness to continue in prayer, this mind of refusing to leave God's presence is characteristic of all who would go far with God in the things of the Holy Spirit.

#### How He was received

He, the Holy Spirit, came upon them. Jesus received the Holy Spirit from the Father, poured Him upon them and they were all baptized by Jesus into the Holy Spirit. This was a profound reality that took place deep in their spirits. It was something so deep that only God could see it at that level. This



was fundamentally the most crucial thing. There were outward manifestations but these were secondary in comparison to the deep inner reality in their spirits. That is all the more reason why all God's conditions must be fulfilled for the outer manifestations can be manipulated, but only the Lord Jesus can carry out this deep work in the human spirit. However, there were also manifestations in the outward dimension. First of all, there was a sound, like a rushing, mighty wind. This was something to hear. Secondly, there was a presence, the presence of the Blessed Holy Spirit. That presence filled the entire house where they were sitting. The presence was something to be felt. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire resting on all of them. This was something for men to see.

All these: something to hear, feel and see took place and then the Bible says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2: 4). What if in some hurry they had rushed away immediately after they heard, felt and saw His presence? They would have had their feelings ministered to, but missed deep reality. They were filled, deep de their spirits and the Holy Spirit into whom they were baptized bore witness to them in the inner man that they were filled. It was not the outward evidence that convinced them. It was the inward evidence of that transaction with the Lord Jesus that assured them that the deed was done.

Immediately following the deep reality in their spirits was a manifestation that could be seen. They were filled and could not help flowing out. The Bible says, "As the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2: 4). The utterances (the tongues) were an outflow of the deep reality that had taken place. The Holy Spirit gave them utterance. They did not learn these utterances, in fact, they could not keep quiet. These disciples could not help speaking in tongues! They had just got the rivers of living waters flowing in them; and how could they be silent after each real baptism into the Holy Spirit there will always be this outflow. He cannot fill and not flow out. Tongues are the Holy Spirit's normal way of first flowing out in anyone who has been baptized by Christ into Him. Why is that so? It is so because of the fundamental nature of the Triune God. Every normal relationship is first God-ward and then man-ward. Tongues are basically and fundamentally God-ward. "For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God" (I



Corinthians 14: 2). Tongues are for thanksgiving to God (I Corinthians 14: 16-17). In the baptism into the Holy Spirit, Jesus is the baptizer; the person is baptized into the Holy Spirit and God the Father receives the first product of this which is tongues of praise and thanksgiving.

But let us note that there were 'two distinct events: First they were filled and the filling produced the manifestation in the speaking in tongues. What if there had been something momentary, transient with no lasting results? This, I believe, is the case with very many people in Pentecostal circles today. They had some manifestations but the deep reality never took place. Consequently, they have nothing of the permanent marks of Spirit-filled people.

The tongues as of fire speak of two things that happened in the disciples. Fire purifies. The disciples were purified in a special way. Something happened to them that made them hate sin in a special way. All Spirit-filled people hate sin. No one can tolerate or play with sin and still be filled with the Spirit. Fire also ignites. The disciples were not only purified but they were ignited. They were set on fire to burn for Jesus. They actually burned for Him. They were men on fire. Without much education and with everything at the human level against them, they still filled the whole of Jerusalem with the Lord\*s teaching. This holy zeal for the Lord and for the Lord's work is an indispensable characteristic of all Spirit- filled people. They are like "possessed" people, filled with love for Jesus, and the interests of Jesus and nothing can keep them back. Anyone at ease is not filled with the Holy Spirit.

The manifestations were so obvious that they heard the sound and heard the speaking in tongues. They were bewildered, amazed and wondered (Acts 2: 6-7). There will always be something for unbelievers to hear and to see if they are present when someone is being filled with the Holy Spirit. They will always be something to bewilder, amaze and cause the unbeliever to wonder and something to mock (Acts 2: 12).

#### The Results

1. **Boldness**: the fearful disciples spoke with boldness and achieved everything for Jesus.
2. **Zeal**: they filled the whole Jerusalem with the Gospel.



3. Holy fire: they were so much on fire that they could not keep quiet.

Peter and John on fire said, "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard"(Acts 4: 20).

4. They won souls for Christ in large numbers.
5. They were imprisoned.
6. They were filled with love for each other (Acts 4: 32-37) and for their enemies (Acts 7: 60).
7. They found prayer and the word wonderful. They enjoyed the presence of Jesus as never before.

[Samaritans baptized into the Holy Spirit \(Acts 8: 4-9\).](#)

Philip went to Samaria and preached the gospel. People believed and were baptized.

However, they did not receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit. They were converts.

They were indwelt by the Holy Spirit but they had not yet been baptized by the Lord Jesus into the Holy Spirit. They were converted, baptized in water but not baptized into the Holy Spirit. (There are many believers today like these Samaritans. They have believed. After believing, they have been baptized into water and nothing else).

Philip did not lay hands on these people so that they might receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit. He recognized that that was an apostolic ministry; so the apostles in Jerusalem sent Peter and John to Samaria for that purpose. When the apostles arrived, they "prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ; for He had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 8:15-16). "Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8: 17). The Bible further adds, "Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostle's hands, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me also this power that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit'"(Acts 8 : 18-19).



What if the apostles, on hearing that Samaria had received the Word, had just praised the Lord and done nothing about it?

Well, there would have been believers in Samaria, but these would have been abnormal believers who lacked the promise of the Father. Such believers would have had no authority from the Father to go and evangelize and all that they would have done spiritually would have been abnormal before God even if it were applauded by man. What was the evidence that Samaritans had received the baptism into the Holy Spirit?

There must have been something clearly visible, visible enough for an unbeliever like Simon, the sorcerer, to know that the baptism into the Holy Spirit was received with the laying on of the apostle's hands.

The Bible says, "when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands" (Acts 8:18). We must ask,

"What did he see"? He did not see what took place in their inner man. He must have seen the outward signs. What signs were there?

The Bible does not bother to mention them because it is obvious that the signs must have been the same as the ones the apostles themselves experienced on the day of Pentecost namely, "they spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

[Cornelius and his household \(Acts 10:34-48\)](#)

Peter was still preaching a long sermon when the Lord changed the hearts of those who heard him and without further delay, "The Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

And the believers from among the circumcised who came with Peter were amazed, BECAUSE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD BEEN Poured out even on the gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God. Then Peter declared, 'Can anyone forbid water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 10:44-48).

The speaking in tongues and glorifying God was the one proof to Peter and the watching Jews that these people had received the baptism into the Holy Spirit "just as we have". That is to say, they had received Him in the same manner as the apostles had received Him. Later on, in explaining why



he had baptized the Gentiles, he said, "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us in the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said,

'John baptized with water but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit'. If then God gave the same gift to them as He gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

(Acts 11:15-17). The apostles expected all who were baptized into the Holy Spirit to be baptized in the same way that they themselves had been baptized, that is, with tongues that extol God as an indispensable manifestation. That is the way they received Him.

All who receive the same baptism would have to receive it the same way. There is no other way.

#### [The Ephesians \(Acts 19:1-7\)](#)

These people had believed and had been baptized. For many a modern evangelist and pastor, the main task would have been finished and they would have gone away rejoicing. However, Paul would not do such a thing. After the people believed and were rebaptized, Paul went ahead to minister the baptism into the Holy Spirit to them. He laid hands on them and "the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:6).

Dear reader, you may have heard that there is a Holy Spirit. But have you experienced the baptism into the Holy Spirit?

When did you receive the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Savior? When were hands laid on you so that you might receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit? Did the Holy Spirit come upon you? Did you speak with other tongues and prophesy? If you have not experienced these things then your spiritual experience is deficient. You are spiritually sub-normal.

#### [What signs were noticed following this baptism?](#)

Here, we are talking about immediate manifestations. In Acts 2, the manifestation was speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4). In Acts 8 the manifestation was definite but not spelt out. In Acts 9 no manifestation is mentioned but the person in question later said that he spoke in tongues more



than all tongue-speaking Corinthians (I Corinthians 14:33). In Acts 19, it was the speaking in tongues and prophesying.

We may safely say that in every normal baptism into the Holy Spirit, the person baptized will manifest the unusual, often the speaking in tongues. However, the baptism into the Holy Spirit is not to be equated with speaking in tongues or with unusual physical manifestations. It goes far beyond these manifestations. It is the power of God let loose in an obedient child (Acts 5:32).

The Lord Jesus intended that all who believe in Him would speak in tongues. He said, "And these signs will accompany those who believe:

1. "In my name they will cast out demons
2. They will speak in new tongues
3. They will pick up serpents and
4. If they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them;
5. They will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover."

He intended these five signs to follow those who believe. He meant that all believers would cast out demons, speak with other tongues... That was the desire of Jesus.

The failure of man to have these things as his normal experience does not change the purpose of Christ for those who believe.

Limiting myself to the subject at hand let me say again that the Lord Jesus said that the sign of speaking in other tongues would follow those who believe. You believe, don't you? Is that sign following you? Are you the self-styled exception? Jesus did not mean that there should be any exception. Please, get into spiritual normalcy.

Be baptized into the Holy Spirit and you will receive this manifestation, as well as others. Other manifestations may precede tongues but the speaking in tongues will come somewhere along as you go on with the Lord.

#### *The speaking in tongues*

There are many manifestations of the Holy Spirit given to us in the Bible. Read for example I Corinthians 12:1-11; I Corinthians 12:27-31; Ephesians 4:7-16; and Romans 12:3-8. It is obvious that many of these gifts were operative in the Old Testament "church" and in the lives of the disciples before Pentecost. The one that is most distinctively associated with what



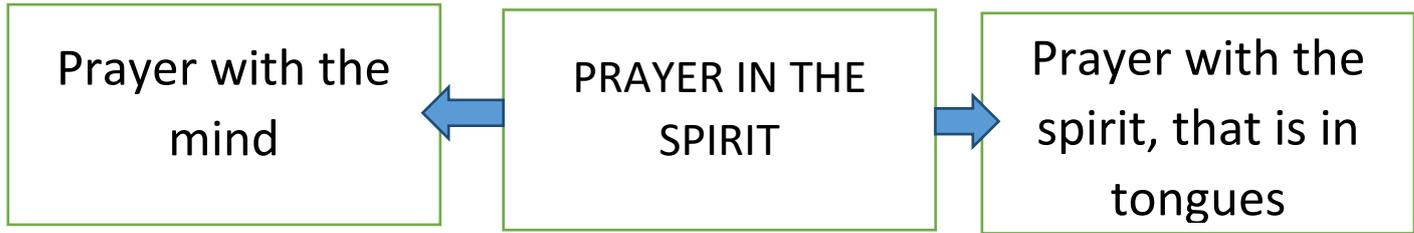
took place on the day of Pentecost was the speaking in tongues. Before Pentecost, there were prophecies, healings, miracles... Pentecost brought along with it the speaking in, and interpretation of tongues. Tongues can then be rightly called the Pentecostal special gift.

Why was this gift given? It was given first of all for ministry to God. The Bible says, "For one who speaks in tongues speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the spirit"(I Corinthians 14:2). The crucial use of this gift is God-ward. Should we not covet a gift that enables us to utter mysteries in the spirit to God? The obvious answer to this question is yes! Secondly, it was given for ministry to oneself. The Bible says, "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself" (I Corinthians 14:4). It is only thirdly that tongues, when interpreted, minister to the body of Christ (I Corinthians 14:26-28).

Let me ask again? "Should we not covet a gift that should edify the believer so that when thus edified, he may be able to edify others? Again, the answer to that question is obviously 'yes'! Something immediately comes through: tongues are mainly to be used in private. But we insist that they should be there and they should be used.

He who cannot speak in tongues cannot pray in the spirit. Prayer with the spirit (the human spirit) is praying with tongues. Paul, the apostle, said "for if I pray in tongues my spirit is in prayer but my mind is unfruitful (I Corinthians 14:14-19).

Every believer can pray in the spirit: "Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication" (Ephesians 6:18). Note that the Spirit here is the Holy Spirit with a capital "S" whereas the spirit in the praying with tongues is with small "s" talking of the human spirit taken possession of and used by the Holy Spirit is part of praying in the Spirit. Prayer in tongues is also praying in the Spirit, but because of its distinctiveness, it is called praying in the Spirit. All believers can pray in the Spirit to some extent, but only those who are baptized into the Holy Spirit and therefore speak in tongues can enter that special and peculiar realm of praying in the Spirit called prayer with the spirit.



God's Holy Spirit deals directly with the Human spirit. Prayer in tongues is the one placed directly in the human spirit, often unknown to the human mind but discharged before God by the one praying in tongues. The apostle Paul said, "What am I to do? I will pray with the Spirit and I will pray with the mind also" (I Corinthians 14: 15). If Paul needed to do both, do you not see that by keeping yourself away from the baptism into the Holy Spirit and therefore praying and singing only with your mind, you have settled for something less than the best in store for you? Do you see that your prayer life is immediately subnormal even if you pray well with your mind? Do you see the fact that by not being able to speak with other tongues you cannot "utter mysteries in the Spirit»?

Will you continue in that condition?

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Bible says, "Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money saying, 'Give me also this power that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 8 : 18-24). Simon, who had previously practiced magic, was present during the laying on of hands by the apostles on some disciples, When the Holy Spirit came on these disciples, Simon, on seeing His manifestation, wanted to buy the Holy Spirit with money, as one would buy an article. He perhaps thought that the Holy Spirit was a kind of magical power that can be owned at will.

Many of God's children, without being Simon the Sorcerer, have the Holy Spirit but do not know Him. This can be seen in the way that they treat



Him, in their attitude towards Him. True it is that in Acts 8: 12-24, it is mentioned that the Holy Spirit was given. It is true that the Holy Spirit is given. Yet He is not given as if He was a thing, but He is given as a person. He is given in the same way as God gave His only begotten Son to the world that He so much loved. We sincerely believe that the reason why some people have not yet received the Holy Spirit is because they ask amiss. They ask wrongly because they do not know what they are asking for. That is why we have deemed it necessary, after quoting some historical examples of the baptism into the Holy Spirit, to see actually, who the Holy Spirit is, before going on to discuss the baptism into the Holy Spirit today.

#### The different titles of the Holy Spirit

The Bible talks of the Spirit both in the Old and New testaments. Among the different names attributed to Him:

The Spirit of the Lord-- Isaiah 11:2

The Spirit of the Lord God-- Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Father -- Matthew 10:20

The Spirit of Jesus -- Acts 16:7

Comforter -- John 14:16

Holy Spirit -- John 14:26

Spirit of truth -- John 14:17

#### The Holy Spirit is a person

We have seen that the Holy Spirit is given not as a thing but as a person. The Holy Spirit is indeed a person. It is not just a question of some power, or a figurative expression for Divine power as the anti-Trinitarians claim. He is a person and being a person, one can:

Lie to Him -- Acts 5:3

Tempt Him -- Acts 5:9

Resist Him -- Acts 7:51

Grieve Him -- Ephesians 4:30

Outrage Him -- Acts 10:30

Sin or blaspheme against him -- Matthew 12:31-32.



He is the third person in the divine trinity

The three persons are:

God the Father

God the Son (Jesus Christ)

God the Holy Spirit

There is perfect harmony among these three persons for God the Holy Spirit is subject to God the Father. For it is the Father who sent the Son (John 7: 28-29,

John 8: 42). It is also the Son who sent the Holy Spirit: (John 15: 26-27; Acts 2: 32- 33). Jesus Christ was therefore the representative of the Father while the Holy Spirit is the representative of Jesus Christ.

[Some attributions of the Holy Spirit](#)

The attributions of the Holy Spirit that we are going to mention are those clearly defined by the One who sent him.

[The Holy Spirit teaches \(John 14: 26\)](#)

Without the Holy Spirit, the word of God would remain a dead letter. He is the source of inspiration of the Holy Scriptures and He is the one who can interpret them. It is He also who knows the deep things of God. He alone is able to teach them to men.

[The Holy Spirit bears witness to Jesus \(John 15: 26-27\).](#)

The Lord Jesus said the Holy Spirit would bear witness to Him after His departure.

Today, many testify that they know Jesus. This does not mean they have seen Jesus but they know Him, because the Holy Spirit has and will continue to make Him known to men, because the Holy Spirit has always been with Him and knows Him. And when the Holy Spirit bears witness to Jesus, He does not do so on his own authority.

[The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus\(John 16 : 14\)](#)

In the same way as the Son glorified the Father, so has the Holy Spirit come to glorify the Son. In fact, the Holy Spirit has not come on His own to seek His own glory. But it is the Son (Jesus Christ) who sent Him, and He came to glorify the One who sent Him. That is why He can only proclaim what He receives from Jesus Christ.



The Holy Spirit declares things that are to come (John 16: 12-14).

No one knows God except He who is from God and who searches the deep things of God. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God, His plans and everything that concerns Him. He is the Spirit of prophecies. And the men of God who declare the things to come, can only so do by the Holy Spirit and what the Holy Spirit says is true, for He does not speak of Himself, but of what He has heard.

The Holy Spirit comforts the Saints

In lesson one of this course, we saw in paragraph 4 under heading II that "The bridegroom has been taken away and those who are truly united to Him can find satisfaction in nothing else. Rather, they are grieved by the absence of the one they love, and nothing else can replace the bridegroom. The Lord knew that after His ascension into heaven, those who loved Him would become like orphans in a (and that does not belong to them. It was for this reason that He promised to send them the Holy Spirit as another Comforter to stay with them and encourage them in their walk on this earth in which they are strangers, while waiting for the return of the bridegroom. Only those who have been or are grieved by the absence of the Lord, only those who are sad and lonely because of His absence will know something of the ministry of consolation the Holy Spirit renders to the children of God. Those who find pleasure in this world and feel at home in it do not need comforting. But those who, due to their foreign nationality (heavenly nationality) are persecuted for righteousness' sake need a comforter, and the Lord Jesus sent them this comforter in the person of the Holy Spirit.

In times of persecution the Holy Spirit remains the most intimate and most faithful friend, and by His power, those persecuted for Jesus' sake endure all the hardship and triumph over persecution... Hallelujah!

To sum up : He who wants to receive the Holy Spirit must know that the Holy Spirit is not a thing he can pocket to use how and when he wills. People do not use the Holy Spirit.

On the contrary, he who receives the Holy Spirit receives the Lord who is called Holy Spirit, so that this Lord may sit on the throne of his life to give him instructions, commands, and perhaps lead him to where he would not like to go, in order to use him as any object would be used, for the glory of



Jesus. Secondly, anyone who wants to receive the Holy Spirit, while his rebellious heart is not yet willing to submit to the discipline and corrections of the Holy Spirit, is self-deceived. Let not such a person think he will receive anything whatsoever from God. God cannot be deceived, God is not mocked. But if you sincerely desire to receive the Holy Spirit and to make Him your Master, then you can be baptized into the Holy Spirit, for Jesus still baptizes today.

## JESUS BAPTIZES TODAY

### Some testimonies

How I got baptized into the Holy Spirit

Praise the Lord!

I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior on 13th December, 1973 in DOBA (Chad).

I got baptized in water on 15th November 1975. In 1980, while I was in training in France, I joined an assembly in Rochefort. It was there that for the first time; I heard brethren speaking in tongues. It was something new to me. I asked no questions about it. As soon as I returned home in 1982, I told my pastor that in my assembly in France, the brethren were praying in a language I could not understand. He replied that they were praying in the Hebrew language. But I knew in my heart that it was not a language that could be learnt at school. In July of the same year, I went to Yaoundé. God led me to meet brethren there. I had a clear teaching on baptism into the Holy Spirit. I also heard the brethren speaking in tongues. The assembly often set aside special meetings for the ministry of baptism into the Holy Spirit. I besought the Lord without ceasing to baptize me into the Holy Spirit. One evening, a brother laid his hands on me at home and I thought I had been baptized into the Holy Spirit. I experienced some sensation, nothing more. I pressed on. I did not speak in tongues but I was very zealous and I prayed a lot.

Some brethren assured me that I *was* already baptized into the Holy Spirit but I did not speak in tongues. Deep down I was not satisfied. In the evening of 8th March 1986 during a ministry of the baptism into the Holy Spirit, Brother Zacharias FOMUM who was leading the meeting, exhorted



and even provoked us: he encouraged us to open our mouths wide. When I could no longer bear his words, I stood up to lay hold of God in prayer. I told Him I was tired, I wanted to grow in my prayer life. I was not satisfied praying always with my mind. When I opened my mouth, words came out and I spoke in tongues for a long time. The ministry continued the following day. I spoke in tongues and could not stop even when the meeting had ended. I lost my voice. It was for me full arrears. Until now and until the Lord whom I am waiting for returns I will continue to speak in tongues. My prayer life has changed. I am happy to have had this wonderful experience. Brethren, take heart. The Lord is faithful and the baptism into the Holy Spirit is a reality today.

Glory and praise be to the One who is seated on the throne!

ALLAHDOUN Victor.

*Baptized into the Holy Spirit before being baptized in water*

I had just believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, I asked to be baptized in water but I was counseled to wait for some time...

Surely, a result of doubts in the hearts of many because of my tender age. Meanwhile, my enthusiasm about my new life was very great;

I desired to know this wonderful Lord very quickly, and to hear Him speak to me.

One morning, I woke up early to have my morning meditation before going to school. I had a burden to pray first for others: the Leader of my assembly, my unbelieving dad, sisters whose husbands are unbelievers, the daughter of a sister in Christ who rebelled each time she was asked to wash plates.

After my prayer, I told the Lord I would not have His meditation if He did not speak to me. It was at this point that the Holy Spirit came upon me, at about 6:10 am, I started speaking in tongues. Mum, who was nearby, thought rather that I had been attacked by acute malaria. She ran up to me. Lay her hands on me and began to pray. I was totally unaware of the commotion around me for I was completely lost in my God. This went on for some time. I discovered in the end that I was in tears. \*

There was general rejoicing at home that morning.



Glory be to God!

Lilie Paule (11 years old) Yaoundé.

Baptized into the Holy Spirit at the height of persecution

I had met the Lord for some time and had surrendered my life to Him. Because of my new faith, problems arose between my husband and me. He was opposed to my commitment to the Lord Jesus and took harsh measures against me to dissuade me from following Christ. He no longer spoke to me; worse still, he had stopped giving me money for food. Here I was, a simple housewife with no livelihood, no food, with four little children, the last one still a suckling.

On a certain Sunday, after our meeting, I had reached the peak of distress. I could no longer control myself; I felt like crying out to God to help me. At 4 pm. I took my Bible and wanted to read it to find some words of comfort in it. But I had never read the Bible before, and so I did not know what passage to read. I decided rather to pray. I asked the Lord to separate me from my husband if this were necessary for me to continue my new life.

I was ready for a divorce. I love the Lord deeply. Suddenly a strange babbling came upon my lips and I smarted speaking in other tongues, something I could not understand. It was 4 : 15 Pm. My voice rose higher and higher and I did not want to be heard by neighbors in the yard. I therefore went into the room where my husband was sleeping. He woke up with a start and wondered what was happening. After a brief moment of panic, he controlled himself, took the baby from my arms and led the other children outside the house. I stopped speaking in tongues at 8 pm. The Spirit then told me to read John 3: 1-6, and explain it to my husband. As I read this passage, the interpretation of it came to me like a dictation. I explained to my husband how to be born again. He listened attentively and, sometime later, gave his life to the Lord.

Glory be to God.



MAHOP Jacqueline - Yaoundé.



You can be baptized into the Holy Spirit today

The need for people to be baptized into the Holy Spirit is still current. People must be baptized into the Holy Spirit in our day as was the case in the beginning.

What must a person do in order to qualify for the baptism into the Holy Spirit? I want to put the qualifications into two classes although in actual fact there is only one group of qualifications. The second group is contained in the first. These are what we may call basic conditions and further conditions. The basic conditions are that the person should:

- a) repent
- b) Be baptized.

When a person has fulfilled these two he should further consider the following if he did not understand that they were contained in the basic requirements:

1. He should enthrone Christ
2. He should thirst for the Lord and His Holy Spirit.
3. He should come to the Baptizer.
4. He should ask, and if need be, keep asking until he has received.

He should enthrone Christ

When Jesus was exalted, He sat on the throne at the right hand of God the Father. From that exalted position, He received the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured Him on the first disciples at the first Pentecost. (Acts 2: 31-32). That set the pattern for all subsequent Pentecosts. The individual must first exalt and enthrone Christ as the absolute and unchallenged Monarch of all his life. Christ must be made Lord of every area of the person's life without the slightest exception. From such a position, that same Jesus will receive the Holy Spirit from the Father and pour Him on the prepared heart. To be unconsecrated even in the slightest area of one's life and to expect a personal Pentecost is folly. God will not fill an unconsecrated vessel for such a vessel is useless to Him.

He should thirst for the Lord and His Holy Spirit

Many people who go far with God are people who thirst after Him. They literally burn with desire for the Lord. The Psalmist said, "O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee? My flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is" (Psalm 63: 1). The Lord Jesus said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink" (John 7: 37). No one



should really expect to be baptized into the Holy Spirit who did not thirst for the Lord; for there are hardly any who genuinely thirst for Him who go away unrewarded.

"Let me illustrate this thirsting with a true life story at the physical level. Some time back, I was invited by the Lutheran Brethren in North Cameroon to speak at their missionary retreat and also help to train some people in evangelism. I shared a room with one of their pastors with whom I shared the ministry. One evening, I return to the room around 10.00 pm and found my room-mate literally rolling from one side of his bed to the other. When I inquired what his problem was, he told me that he was so thirsty that he could not sleep. Together, we looked for the water round the house but found none. We next when to the only tape we knew in that big missionary compound and found it turn off. We stood there confused and then he said, 'unless I drink some water, I will not be able to sleep and tomorrow's ministry will be affected.' In our desperation we went to the nearest missionary house where the occupants were already asleep. After knocking many times at the door, they woke up and gave him water in a big jug. He drank all of it immediately and asked for more. We were then able to return to our room where he slept soundly". (1)

He was so desperately thirsty for water that he would not rest until he had had a drink. Those who thirst after Christ and his power in like manner cannot go unrewarded. The psalmist said, "My soul thirsts for thee, my flesh longs for thee" (psalm 63: 1).

[He should come to the Baptizer](#)

The baptizer is the Lord Jesus. He is the one who said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me" (John 7: 37). When the religious leaders saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered and they recognized that they had been with Jesus" (acts 4: 13).

[Professor Zacharias T Fomum testimony](#)



If a person comes to Jesus and fulfils all His conditions he will be baptized by Jesus into the Holy Spirit of God. Many seek the baptism but do not care for Jesus. They want signs and manifestations but they do not want the Lord Jesus. Such will not receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit.

One should ask and, if need be, continue to ask

The first disciples waited for ten days.

These days were used for preparation. Each one will know sometime of waiting. This period of waiting may be ten years, ten months, ten days, ten hours, ten minutes or ten seconds.

The length of time would depend on the individual. Jesus, the Baptizer, waits for each individual to prepare. The faster he prepares the sooner his baptism into the Holy Spirit will take place, it is the individual believer who decides how long he can go on before he is baptized into the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' famous discourse on prayer (Luke 11:1-13), after teaching on the need for importunity in prayer for those who want to prevail with God in prayer, He ended it by saying,

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 11: 13). We can understand this in the spirit of the passage to mean, "How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him and who keep on asking Him? To ask and continue to ask does not betray unwillingness on God's part. It demonstrates the seriousness of our purpose. Sometimes God wants to know if we mean business with Him and are therefore prepared to press on with our request. After all, the gift of the Holy Spirit is God's greatest gift next only to His begotten Son, the Lord Jesus. Would it be wrong for Him to seriously investigate the depth of the desire of anyone wanting such a gift from Him? When one asks and does not immediately receive, one should search one's heart to see if there is any sin blocking the way. It is only when the Lord, after a serious examination of the heart, testifies that there is nothing in the person standing in the way that the person should continue in prayer.

When there is nothing between the individual and God then the former can now enter into prayer with fasting to destroy the action of hindering wicked spirits (Daniel 10 : 2-21). When there is a break-through in the spirit world, the Spirit will be received with all His manifestations in the human world.

Someone may ask, "What sins can stand in the way of my being baptized into the Holy Spirit?" I want to name a few but I trust that the Holy Spirit will show you your heart's true condition:

1. A cold heart towards God
2. A lack of zeal and spiritual ambition
3. A poor prayer life
4. Lack of desire to read the word of God regularly
5. Fear of public opinion
6. A compromising spirit
7. An unwillingness to give sufficiently for the work of the Gospel
8. Pride
9. Self-display
10. Self-love
11. Self-glorification
12. Self-exaltation
13. Lying.
14. A spirit of exaggeration.
15. Anger.
16. Self-rivalry.
17. An unsubmitive spirit.
18. A jealous heart.
19. A conceited spirit.
20. An Unforgiving spirit.
21. A refusal to carry out restitution of one thing or another.
22. Laziness.
23. Love of ease.
24. Love of money.
25. Love of the world.
26. Critical spirit.



27. Friendship with the world.
28. A talkative spirit.
29. Gluttony.
30. Refusal to fast or pray.
31. Refusal to stop all known sin.
32. Lack of continuous desire to meet the hard demands of the cross.
33. Sexual immorality in thought, word, or deed.
34. Unholy spiritual relationships
  - Sorcery
  - Talismans
  - Horoscopes
  - fortune-telling
  - witchcraft, ...
35. ....,.....

If one or more of these sins are found in your life, deal drastically with them, for they will stand in the way of God's best for you. Finally, let me say that the person should come to the end of himself. He should be desperate. The story is told of a man and a preacher at a convention. The speaker had been speaking on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. After the message, the man asked to speak with the preacher and they went out of a walk. When they had not gone far, the man said, "I want to be baptized into the Holy Spirit". So the preacher began to speak on the Holy Spirit as they walked along. Then the man said again, "I want to be baptized into the Holy Spirit". Then the speaker continued to talk about the wonders that God does in the life of a Spirit-baptized person and again the man repeated his request. This time the speaker continued to talk on the power to win souls into the kingdom that comes with the baptism into the Holy Spirit. Then they got to some point and the man stood. He told the speaker, "I have come to the end of myself. I will not take another step before I am baptized into the Holy Spirit. I must be baptized with the Holy Spirit here and now." At that point, the speaker stopped talking. The man knelt down. The speaker knelt beside him and they asked the Baptizer to baptize the man, and within seconds, that man entered into his personal Pentecost.



My dear reader, have you come to the point where you will not attend to any other sermon, when you will not attend to any other thing, spiritual or material, until you have been baptized into the Holy Spirit? Have you come to the end of yourself? If you can still go on without the baptism, then you are not spiritually ready for it.

#### [How to receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit](#)

In the New Testament, He was received in many ways. On the day of Pentecost, He fell upon praying disciples unaided (Acts 2). In Cornelius' house, He fell upon an audience listening to a message (Acts 10). In Samaria (Acts 8), in Damascus (Acts 9: 17), and in Ephesus (Acts 19) He came upon them with the laying on of hands. The methods varied but the same Holy Spirit came upon hearts that were ready and open. He may be received in the same way today.

#### [Practical help for those who want to receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit](#)

- (1) Make sure that you are genuinely converted. That you are a true child of God. Read John 1: 12.
- (2) Confess all the sins in your life - all without exception. God will not fill you with His Holy Spirit when you still harbor sin.
- (3) Forsake all the sins and sinful attitudes which you have confessed. If you confess sins that you do not plan to forsake, you are just joking with God. Break all sinful relationships you are involved in and carry out restitution, where necessary.
- (4) Obey God in all the areas that the Bible says you should. The Lord gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. "And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him". (Acts 5: 32). For example, if you have repented and have not been baptized after you repented, you are living in disobedience. The Bible says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;



and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2: 38). This is not the only area of obedience. You should obey all the truth you know.

- (5) If you can find a person with the right spiritual qualifications, let him lay hands on you and the Holy Spirit will fall upon you. If you are totally out of reach of the right person, get to a lonely place, pray and ask the Lord to baptize you into the Holy Spirit.

Normally, the baptism into the Holy Spirit is carried out as part of the ministry of the Local church, which takes the responsibility of winning people to Christ, teaching them, baptizing them in water and praying that they should be baptized into the Holy Spirit.

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and receive the baptism into the Holy Spirit by faith and the signs will follow. The Bible says, "Whatever you ask in Prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24). "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the request made of Him" (John 5:14-15). "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).



## Points To Remember

### The Purpose Of Pentecost

Good as the gift of speaking in tongue is, let it not be misunderstood that the baptism into the Holy Spirit has as its purpose the production of people who speak in other tongues. The baptism was meant to endow the recipient with power for radical witness un the Lord Jesus. Those baptized into the Holy Spirit were to receive power to be witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1: 8). We must ultimately look at commitment to so winning and to the care of souls won into the kingdom as clear evidence that the person he received the baptism. If one were to meet an easy-going person who did not really care about the lost and did not care about the Lord, but claimed to be baptized into the Holy Spirit, one should ask him, "Did you receive the same Holy Spirit that the earl disciples received

The baptism into the Holy Spirit was also meant to produce intense love for the Lord Jesus. If someone does not have an increased desire for Jesus, in obeying Him at praying to the Lord in His name, something must be wrong with his spiritual experience

### The Baptism Into The Holy Spirit And Christian Maturity

When a person is baptized into the Holy Spirit, that one is not automatically mature

As we have clearly seen, the experience is to be entered into at the beginning of the Christian life. Therefore, it is normal to find people who are baptized into the Holy Spirit but young in the faith. The baptism into the Holy Spirit was meant to help people to press on to spiritual maturity through obedience to Christ and submission to the dealings of the cross. If after a person is baptized into the Holy Spirit he continues in the life of consecration and absolute surrender and thus progresses in the way of the cross, he will reach maturity in both character and service. If on the other hand he plunges into obedience to the desires of the flesh and forsakes the way of obedience, the gift of tongues will remain there as noise and the person himself a noisy empty vessel.



There is power in the Holy Spirit. But there is also power in the surrendered life; power in the cross; power in the word of God and in prayer. God's purpose is that the disciple will use all these resources of spiritual power for overall effectiveness.

If someone is baptized into the Holy Spirit but neglects one or more of the other ingredients of spiritual power, his effectiveness will be greatly limited. However, there are people who have never received the baptism into the Holy Spirit, but have made use to a very large extent, of one or more of the other resources of power and have done great things for God.

What must we do then? We must first of all receive the indispensable baptism into the Holy Spirit. If not, our evangelism will be without mandate, for God does not send out people who have not been baptized by Christ into the Holy Spirit. He told the first disciples, "Thus it was written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things and behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24 48-49). "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses ..." (Acts 1: 8). Then we must continue in the way of absolute surrender to the Lord Jesus in obedience, prayer and the Word. With all of this, we shall never lack power.

#### In Conclusion Then

The Holy Spirit indwells all believers from the moment of their conversion with the goal of producing the character of Christ in them. The Holy Spirit comes down, is poured upon them and is received in a special way; this process is called the baptism into the Holy Spirit, and the goal is the imparting on the power of Jesus Christ for spiritual service to these believers who see their need of the baptism and fulfill God's conditions (John 7: 37-39; Acts 2:38; Luke 24: 46 4 8; Luke 11: 13).

The baptism into the Holy Spirit goes hand in hand with life-long unconditional so render to the Lord Jesus, a life that leads to total obedience,



to prayer and the reading of the Word; this will produce people who satisfy God's heart.

All the children of God need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit for the obligation to be witnesses to the Lord Jesus is for all. A believer who does not witness is like a lighted lamp placed under a chair.

Such a believer is not more useful to God than this lamp to its owner.

Witnessing will be our next theme for study in lesson 3.