

**FOUNDATION OF FAITH!**  
**BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**PART 3**

In our study on Foundation of Faith we have been looking at the baptism of the Holy Spirit or this empowerment of God upon our lives to be witnesses of Him over the past few weeks. And as I have said, this is a controversial subject that runs the gamut of beliefs. Some people deny this baptism and they say there is no evidence found in the Scriptures regarding this event. There is only one baptism and that is into the faith. But as we have seen, there are other baptisms and there are plenty of Scriptures that show this event, this *baptism unto power!*

On the other end of the spectrum are those that believe in this baptism and they blame all that they do on the Holy Spirit, the stranger, the more bizarre, the more the Holy Spirit is the one doing it! And what ends up happening is attention is drawn to them instead of being witnesses of Jesus, empowered to move the Gospel message forward.

I think there is a beautiful balance between these two extremes and it is what the Scriptures have shown us and we will continue looking at this event, this *baptism unto power* this morning.

Now let me just set the stage for what we will be looking at this morning because I believe it is important that you see what the Scriptures are saying. First of all, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, He met with His disciples and in John 20:21-22 we are told what took place, **“So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”** Up to this point the disciples were Old Testament saints and the Holy Spirit was with them, drawing them to Jesus and now the Holy Spirit has come inside of them, they are New Testament saints, they were like you and me the moment we got saved! Now I do understand that some like to deny what was taking place here but when Jesus breaths on you and says to receive the Holy Spirit, what do you think will happen? You will receive the Holy Spirit and that is exactly what we see here.

Now, because some don't believe in this *baptism unto power* they have come up with what was going on here. This is what one commentator wrote, “Since the disciples did not actually receive the Holy Spirit until the day of Pentecost, some 40 days in the future (Ac 1:8; 2:1–3), this statement must be understood as a pledge on Christ's part that the Holy Spirit would be coming.” (John MacArthur, commentary on John). There is nowhere in this verse that indicates that this is a pledge but an event that took place and I think it is very clear that the Holy Spirit who was with them was now in them, they are New Testament saints, New Testament believers. But, if you deny this *baptism unto power* then you have to come up with an idea of what took place here instead of letting the Scriptures speak for themselves and that is what I desire to do as I present this to you!

Secondly, Jesus emphasized the importance of being baptized in the Holy Spirit for in Acts 1:4-5 we are told, “**And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’**”

What is this promise from the Father that Jesus is speaking of? I believe it is the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Now keep in mind that the Holy Spirit has come in them already, we read that in John chapter 20. So this is speaking of a subsequent event that they were to wait for, this baptism with the Holy Spirit. And this promise, which I believe Jesus is speaking of, is this very event. In Luke 24:49 we are told, “**Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**” Notice, again, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, after He breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Spirit, Jesus tells them to tarry or wait in Jerusalem, for what? For that power to be witnesses of Him.

That is exactly what we are told in Acts 1:8, “**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

You see, these men had all the tools to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20, **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”** They walked with Jesus for 3½ years. Then what was the problem?

The problem was they lacked the power to run those tools and now Jesus is promising to give them that power by pouring out upon them the Holy Spirit. I have said it before, but it does drive the point home. You can have the best power tools in the world but unless they are connected to a power source, they are useless. We can have all the intellectually knowledge in the world, but unless there is that empowering, we will never move the Gospel message forward as God intended us to do. And keep in mind, as we saw here in Acts 1:8, it is the power to be witnesses of Jesus. Not necessarily witness for Jesus, which we should do, but to be witnesses of Him. What does that mean?

Let me explain by giving you this example. Sir Henry Stanley said this of David Livingstone after discovering and spending time with him in Central Africa, “If I had been with him any longer I would have been compelled to be a Christian, and He never spoke to me about it at all.” You see, Livingstone’s witness went far beyond words, he lived what he believed and so should we, but we can’t accomplish that on our own, we need the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

How do we know when we are running low? The answer is simple, it is by the way we treat people, if there is no love, we are short with them, sarcastic with them, biting people's heads off, don't have time for them, and-so-on, you need a filling! What is the cure? Ask God to fill you and believe it by faith, apply it to your life, live what you believe and walk by faith!

As you look at the work of the Holy Spirit today, or should I say what some people call the work of the Holy Spirit, you see them tooting their horn, all kinds of bizarre behavior. That is not the work of the Holy Spirit. Think of it like this. The steam in a locomotive does not exist to toot the whistle but to power the engine down the track, to move it along, and the Holy Spirit does that with us, moving us along for God to use, not to toot our whistle but to move us, to move the Gospel message forward!

Also notice that it began in Jerusalem, which we can read of in Acts chapters 1-7, then to Judea and Samaria, in Acts 8-12, and finally to the ends of the earth, Acts 13-28. How does that apply to us as individuals? Your home is your Jerusalem, and before you spread out you must take care of your home, your family. Then from there your Judea and Samaria may be your neighbors. Then from there, to the uttermost parts of the earth, it may be your work.

I think you get the idea, the same is true for us as a church. We have our Jerusalem, Manitowoc. We have our Judea and Samaria, the surrounding communities. And we have our uttermost parts of the earth, this state, this nation and even this world! But apart from this empowering of God's Spirit in our lives, it will be hard to move the Gospel message forward. Thus, what the early church needed to get the church started, we surely need today! We need that power to bring the Gospel message forward, to move it along and let people see Jesus in us!

And so, we have seen that the receiving of the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are two separate and distinct experiences. The disciples received the Holy Spirit on the day of Christ's resurrection as Jesus breathed on them and said to them to receive the Holy Spirit. Then, some fifty days later, on the day of Pentecost, they received the baptism with the Holy Spirit in the upper room and as I have said, this is a *baptism unto power!*

In our last study we looked at four examples that showed us this empowerment for service, this baptism with the Holy Spirit. We looked at Acts chapter 2 and saw this occur on the day of Pentecost, this promise of the Father that was for them, their children, and to all who are afar off, you and me! (Acts 2:39). We looked at Acts chapter 4 and we saw this refilling of the Holy Spirit in their lives, this empowerment in their lives. There is that initial filling with the Holy Spirit and then there is that fresh anointing.

We also saw in Acts chapter 8 that the baptism into the faith as the Holy Spirit comes into a believer is different than this baptism unto power. We saw that this baptism with the Holy Spirit is often a separate and subsequent work apart from salvation. And then we saw in Acts chapter 10 that the baptism with the Holy Spirit can come at the same time as conversion.

This morning we are going to continue looking at what the Scriptures have to say regarding this promise of the Father, what they have to say regarding this *baptism unto power!* Let me share this with you and then we will look into the Scriptures regarding this work of God in our lives. We are told,

D. L. Moody was once asked why he urged Christians to be filled constantly with the Holy Spirit. “Well,” he said, “I need a continual infilling because I leak!” He pointed to a water tank which had sprung a leak. “I’m like that!” he said. It’s a fact that living in this sinful world we do need to be replenished by the Spirit. A friend of mine, an evangelist, was asked if he believed in the “second blessing”. “Of course I do,” he replied, “and in the 3rd, 4th, 5th blessing, and so on.”

- Source Unknown

Let us not negate this *baptism unto power* that God has for us, but let us search the Scriptures and desire to have all that God wants us to have.

## 5. SAUL'S CONVERSION AND EMPOWERMENT – ACTS 9

We have studied the life of Saul or this man who later became Paul and his conversion to Jesus. But, prior to his conversion Saul was running in the opposite direction from God. In fact, Paul gives us some insight into his life before he got saved, what he was doing. In Galatians 1:13-14 we are told, **“For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”** The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“You have heard of my earlier career and former manner of life in the Jewish religion (Judaism), how I persecuted and abused the church of God furiously and extensively, and [with fanatical zeal did my best] to make havoc of it and destroy it. And [you have heard how] I outstripped many of the men of my own generation among the people of my race in [my advancement in study and observance of the laws of] Judaism, so extremely enthusiastic and zealous I was for the traditions of my ancestors.”**

Paul's mission was to destroy, to put an end to the Christian faith, to stop the followers of Jesus. And in Acts chapter 9 Saul is on his way to Damascus to bring those who were of the Way, Christians, back to Jerusalem with him, bound with chains. But on the way Saul encounters the Lord. Now keep in mind that Damascus was 130 miles northeast of Jerusalem and thus, this was at least a six-day journey. That tells me that Saul was very committed to his cause, to stamp out the Way or Christianity.



Also keep in mind that when Saul was traveling to Damascus he was not looking for Jesus, Jesus was crucified, dead. What Saul was doing was trying to stop the followers of this dead prophet from promoting this doctrine that salvation is based in Christ and the forgiveness of sins that is found in the shedding of His blood. But God had other plans for Saul!

And so let's pick up the story in Acts chapter 9, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what happens to Saul while he is on the road to Damascus to stop these Jesus followers wherever he could find them. We are told, **“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”** Acts 9:1-9.

You can just picture in your mind the anger, the hostility, the hatred that Saul had for the followers of Jesus in which Saul calls “**the Way**” here. Why was he like that, why did these Jesus followers consume his life so much, make him so angry? Because I believe Saul thought he was a good person, a keeper of the Law, a holy man, and yet, Stephen’s face was angelic, his face glowed the presence of God, his heart was not angry or bitter to those who were putting him to death for his faith in Jesus, but he said, “. . . **‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’** . . .” And I think this bothered Saul so much that he just wanted to destroy these people who were eating away at his own heart, bothering his consciousness so much. He thought he was a lover of God and yet, these followers of Jesus had something that he didn’t have, that joy, peace, love, they had Jesus!

And from the death of Stephen till now, Saul is still attacking the church. In Acts 26:9-11 Paul, called Saul at this time, said “**Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.**”

Now why did Saul travel to Damascus? Because Damascus had a large group of Jewish people and Saul hears that many of the Synagogues are filled with Christians now, the people of the Way are there, this is where the Jesus followers are hanging out. So Saul goes to the High Priest for a letter to arrest and bring back these Jesus followers, and the Roman government would honor this. Now Saul thought he was on a mission from God and he was actually on his own crusade, his own mission and in direct opposition to God! How often we do that, we are on our own crusade and think God is with us, and we miss the boat completely, even though we may be sincere!

And so, in the middle of the day this light that shone down from Heaven and it must have been even brighter than the sun, so much so that Saul fell to the ground. Here is the thing, Saul is charging towards Damascus, and now God slows him down and causes him to come to a complete stop, dead in his tracks you might say. Why did God do this? God wanted to get Saul's attention. You see, he was a man on a mission and nothing was going to stop him, nothing until this light from Heaven that shined down upon him!

Now Saul is not sure what is going on and then he hears this voice from heaven saying, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”** Saul, confused by whose voice this is, or maybe he really didn't want to know, maybe his biggest fear of who this is was going to become a reality, asks who is speaking and he hears the voice say **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”** That must have sent shock waves through Saul! Saul was on a mission to put an end to those Jesus followers, he consented to the death of Stephen and now he finds out that he is not on a mission from God, but really from the Devil. I can't imagine what was going through the mind of Saul at this point when this voice from Heaven says that it is Jesus and that Saul is persecuting Jesus, he is persecuting God!

Now this is kind of interesting to me. I thought Saul was persecuting the church and yet Jesus says that Saul is persecuting Jesus. What is up with this? Saul was persecuting the church but Jesus so closely identifies Himself with the church that when the church is persecuted the reality is, He is being persecuted. Saul thought he was serving God and now he finds out he was persecuting God, persecuting God's people by his actions!

Jesus then tells Saul, “**It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**” A goad was a long, sharp stick that was used to get an ox to move the way you wanted him to move. Jesus is telling Saul that he is like an ox, he is fighting against what his Master wants, Jesus, and it is hard. How true that was, especially after seeing the way Stephen was martyred for His faith. He could not get the face of Stephen out of his mind, the peace he had and the only thing he could do is try to destroy that witness, those witnesses of Jesus, but even after Stephen’s death, there were more and more followers of Jesus that expressed this same love and peace! And the Lord is telling Saul to stop kicking, stop fighting against God, against Jesus and surrender to Him!

Maybe the Lord is speaking to some of you this morning regarding this issue. You know what God wants you to do but you are fighting against it. And the Lord is saying to you “**It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**” Stop kicking and surrender. Some of you may not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are kicking and fighting and He is calling you to surrender. Those of you who know the Lord and are involved in things He doesn’t want you to be in, stop kicking and fighting and surrender to His will. In either case you won’t win fighting against God and if you think about it, if you could win you would still lose!

Then in verse 6 we see the conversion, the salvation of Saul to Jesus Christ. Some may not be impressed, but this is a radical change in his life. Listen to what Paul tells us of his life before Christ in Philippians 3:3-6, and keep in mind that Saul the “requested one” would then become Paul the “little” one as he saw himself now in Christ! We read in Philippians, **“For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the Eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”**

If anyone could boast in his flesh before he was saved, Paul could. He was circumcised on the eighth day, a child of Israel, from the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee or a keeper of the Law or so he thought, persecuting those that opposed his views – specifically the church, and he saw himself as blameless!

But, Paul continues to say in Philippians, **“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”** Philippians 3:7-14.

Paul is saying everything he thought was important, when the light of Christ shined upon him, he saw it all as worthless, as dung! All his schooling with the famous Gamaliel, all his upbringing, he says is worth absolutely nothing when compared to Christ and what He has given to him. Paul, who saw himself as great before Christ, now sees himself as the chief of sinners. He realized that the Law couldn't save him, it only showed how far short of perfection he really was and it was only through Christ that our sins are cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more. If you live by the Law you will die by the Law! Thus, this is a radical change, a radical transformation of this Pharisee named Saul!

Here was this powerful man broken, humbled and lead to Damascus by his companions, blinded for three days! Why did this happen? Maybe because Saul needed some time to process all these things. Think about it, he was going 110% against Jesus by persecuting the church, and the Lord stepped in and stopped him dead in his tracks, and now he is going to be turned around and go in the opposite direction 110% for Jesus and building up the church. Paul didn't do anything half-heartedly! Think of what is happening to Saul like taking a picture. Saul was in spiritual darkness until the light of Jesus shined upon the film of his heart and then his eyes were closed, the shutter snapped shut after the picture was taken. Now the developing process is taking place and when it is finished, exposed and developed on the film of Saul's heart, Jesus will be seen! But I truly believe that Saul is saved here in Acts chapter 9, this Damascus road conversion!

What is the evidence that Saul got saved here? I think there are two reasons for us to believe that Saul got saved here and I think his salvation took place somewhere between the lines of these verses, but again, there are a few reasons why we can come to this conclusion. First, Saul asked Jesus, "**Lord, what do You want me to do?**" The voice says that He is Jesus and Saul is no longer persecuting Jesus but calling Him Lord! And secondly, he was praying in verse 11 of Acts chapter 9. We are told this, "**So the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.'**"



We will deal more with this man Ananias who went to visit Paul after his conversion, but again, notice that he was praying and I think it was because he had a relationship with God, the Holy Spirit was wooing him to Christ and now the Holy Spirit is inside of him. And we will see that he will be empowered by the Holy Spirit. You see, I think Paul is converted at this point, waiting in Damascus on Straight Street for further instructions.

And God is not only working in the life of Saul, but here is this man whom the Lord brings to Saul, a man called Ananias. And I love the story because as this man comes into the picture, he really did not want to go and see Saul. The reason is simple. You see, word got out how he was persecuting the saints of God, arresting them and putting them in prison, and thus, Ananias did not want to see Saul and get arrested. That was not a good idea. So the Lord explains further to Ananias that Saul is now a chosen vessel of His, and will bear His name before both Jew and Gentile. It is hard to argue with the Lord when He explains it like that but we still do argue at times, but Ananias didn't.

Now we read beginning in verse 17 of Acts chapter 9, “**And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.**” Acts 9:17-19.

I think this once again shows us that the empowering of God's Spirit is subsequent to salvation. Saul became a believer on the road to Damascus, and he was empowered with the Spirit of God in Damascus. The result of that in His life is not what many teach today. There is nothing mentioned of Paul speaking in tongues here, although the Scriptures do tell us that Paul did speak in tongues. But what we see here is when the Spirit of God came upon him, he was changed. We read in Acts 9:20-22, "**Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed, and said, 'Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?' But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.**"

Paul spoke the Word of God with Boldness!

So we have seen Paul's conversion into the faith, that he got saved on the road to Damascus and then we saw the subsequent empowerment for service as he waited in Damascus. The result of this empowerment was the movement of the Gospel message forward as he was "**proving that this Jesus is the Christ.**" That is exactly what Jesus said would be the evidence for this *baptism unto power*, that we would be witnesses of Him, that the Gospel message would move forward and we see that in the life of Paul!

## **6. SALVATION AND THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY THE LAYING ON OF HANDS – ACTS 19**

In Acts chapter 19 we see Paul is on his third missionary journey, and when he is in the city of Ephesus he encounters some disciples that were dry and lifeless. And Paul says to them in Acts 19:1-4, **“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? So they said to him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’ And he said to them, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’”**

Apollos is in Corinth sharing Jesus and as Paul arrives in Ephesus he encounters 12 Men (Acts 19:7) who are called **“disciples”**. I don’t believe that makes them Christians for as John 6:66 tells us, some disciples of Jesus were not saved. This verse says, **“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”** So I don’t believe these men were saved at this time and we will see that in a few minutes.

Was Paul speaking of the Spirit indwelling them when they are saved or the empowering with the Holy Spirit that can happen at the time of salvation or later on? Personally, I believe Paul recognized something was missing in their lives, maybe the joy, maybe the love, and he desires to know if they have received this empowering by God. Their response is interesting for they tell Paul that they had no clue to what he was talking about.

Now Paul desires to know what baptism they received and they tell Paul, “**Into John’s baptism.**” What is John’s baptism? In Matthew chapter 3 we are told what John’s baptism was all about. We read, “**In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’ . . .and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. . . . Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.**” Matthew 3:1-2, 6, 8. Also, in Mark 1:4-5 we are told, “**John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.**”

John’s baptism was one of repentance from sins, to prepare for the coming Messiah, that is all they knew. And so, they were not saved, they were waiting for the coming Messiah, not knowing that He had already come and paid in full the penalty for their sins. They were what we might call Old Testament saints, the Spirit of God had not in-dwelt them for they had not received Jesus as yet. So Paul shares with them about Jesus, His atoning death and glorious resurrection and they got saved! How do I know they got saved?

Now, again I don't believe this group of people were saved yet, they were baptized into John's baptism of repentance, but they had not believed on the Lord Jesus as yet. And so Paul shares with them the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as I have said, and the results of what he shared is found beginning in verse 5 of Acts 19. We read "**When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all.**" Acts 19:5-7.

Notice what we see here and this again is important. We see here that they got saved, baptized into the body of Christ. I don't think anyone of us would disagree with that because we are told that they "**were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**" That means that they were saved. But it does not end there for we are then told that Paul laid hands upon them and the Holy Spirit came upon them empowering them for service. We are also told that they spoke in tongues and also prophesied this time. Now don't think that you must speak in tongues to have this empowering as some teach. And we will deal more with the gift of tongues when we look at these spiritual gifts down the road. But this is not an evidence for the empowering of God's Spirit, speaking in tongues. This power is to be witnesses of Christ and is manifested in our daily life, what we do, what we say, and how we live. And again, this happened at the time of their salvation, it is not just speaking of their salvation for the Holy Spirit came in them when they were saved and then we are told that "**the Holy Spirit came upon them.**" The empowering of God's Spirit upon their lives!

I think you can clearly see that not only in the lives of the disciples of Christ, but in the early church there was an empowering for service that is just as important in our lives today as it was back then. There is a subsequent work to be done after we are saved, and the baptism with the Holy Spirit is that work that Jesus gives to us. And as we have seen, it can occur at the same time as you are saved, right after you are saved, even a period of time later, after you are saved, and you can be refilled by God's Spirit for the work He has called you to do.

Remember what Paul said in Ephesians 5:18, "**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.**" Paul is saying to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit as you yield to Him and the result of that is seen in the following verses of Ephesians chapter 5. We read beginning in verse 19, "**speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.**"

Ephesians 5:19-21. In other words, being a witness for Jesus in our life, in all that we do. In our marriage, in our family, in our work place, as a boss, as children, this is all accomplished as we surrender to the Holy Spirit and are empowered by the Spirit of God to be witnesses of Him, of Jesus!

As I begin to rap things up this morning, listen closely to what R. A. Torrey has to say in his book, *The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit*. He wrote,

A man may be regenerated by the Holy Spirit and still not be baptized with the Holy Spirit. In regeneration there is the impartation of life by the Spirit's power, and the one who receives it is saved; in baptism with the Holy Spirit, there is the impartation of power, and the one who receives it is fitted for service. The baptism with the Holy Spirit, however, may take place at the moment of regeneration. It did, for example, in the household of Cornelius. . . .

In Ephesians 5:18, 19 we are told that those who are filled with the Spirit will speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in their hearts to the Lord. Men who are baptized with the Holy Spirit do not talk much about self but much about God and especially much about Christ. This is necessarily so, as it is the Holy Spirit's office to bear witness to the glorified Christ (John 15:26; 16:14).

To sum up everything that has been said about the results of the baptism with the Holy Spirit: the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God coming upon the believer, filling his mind with a real apprehension of truth, especially of Christ, taking possession of his faculties, imparting to him gifts not otherwise his but which qualify him for the service to which God has called him.

- R. A. Torrey, *The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 150, 168

Folk's, we receive this gift, sometimes by the laying on of hands, but that is not necessary. We receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit by faith, just as we are saved by faith. We cannot earn the baptism by being good enough to deserve it, by tarrying in Manitowoc or even Jerusalem, waiting for it. God bestows it freely on those who come to Him by faith!

And think about it. Don't you want all that God has for you? Absolutely, and thus, receive all that God desires to give you, not negating anything found in His Word because of our biases. Ask God to pour His Spirit upon you, and believe it by faith, and you shall receive the power you need in your life as you surrender to His leading. And remember, the Spirit coming upon us does not cause us to toot our whistle and blow our horns, but to move the Gospel message forward by transforming our lives and using them as a witness to the lost.

And think about the church in general today. The church of Jesus Christ today tends to be very carnal and what I mean by that is that the church operates in its own strength, in the power of the flesh instead of the dynamic power that the Holy Spirit gives to us, that *baptism unto power!* We have all kinds of programs and things to learn how to witness, which are not in themselves wrong, but we miss the power to be witnesses of Christ. We miss the power to live out our faith so that as we do people will see Jesus. You see, when you do it in the power of your own strength, your own might, what people see is you and not Jesus. Let me share this with you. We are told,



The church of Christ is to be a spiritual reality in which the distinct endowments of the Spirit of Christ are seen. That reality should be true of the organized or visible church. The organized church is not identical with the church of God, and it often fails to show these characteristics. Yet these characteristics should be seen wherever true believers gather together in Christ's name; the world should be able to recognize that there is something spiritual about them. Francis Schaeffer writes, "These are the things that the world should see when they look upon the church – something that they cannot possibly explain away. . . . The church of the Lord Jesus Christ should be functioning moment by moment on a supernatural plane. This is the church living by faith, and not in unfaith. This is the church living practically under Christ's leadership, rather than thinking of Christ being far off and building the invisible Church, while we build that which is at hand with our own wisdom and power."

- James Montgomery Boice, Foundations of the Christian Faith, p. 573

It is as Jesus said to us in Acts 1:8, "**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**" This is from The Amplified Bible, "**But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.**" And this is from The Living Bible, "**But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect, to the people in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, about my death and resurrection.**"

Let me close with this. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, where Jesus does the baptizing is not a baptism into the faith for salvation, for that is the work of the Holy Spirit. This baptism is an empowering for service. This is the empowering to be witnesses of Jesus! Remember, the apostles walked with Jesus for 3½ years. They knew the message, they knew what He taught them, it was all intellectually, but they still knew it. And even with all that information that they had, Jesus told them to wait, to tarry in Jerusalem until they receive the power to preach the Gospel message and this power would be given when He baptizes them in the Holy Spirit!

In fact, that word, “**power**” that is found in Acts 1:8, is a Greek word that we get our English word “dynamic” from. Thus, if you are lacking the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit in your life, ask your heavenly Father to give it to you. Remember what Jesus said, **“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”** Luke 11:9-13.

Just ask because then and only then, only when you have been endued with power from on high, *baptized unto power* with the Holy Spirit, will you be ready to serve Jesus Christ and tell others about Him!