

Central Study Hour – Sabbath School Lesson Notes

The Holy Spirit and Spirituality: Lesson Five, “The Baptism and Filling of the Holy Spirit”

SABBATH AFTERNOON: Read title. *What is the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit?* This is an important understanding of this week’s lesson. Read memory text. To have life to the full, Christians must be filled with the Holy Spirit. Share highlights from the narrative.

SUNDAY: THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (What is the timing of it?)

Read Mark 1:8 and Acts 1:5. *What other rite of initiation goes together with the baptism of the Spirit?* Water baptism, the baptism of repentance.

The narrative points out that there are only 7 passages in the New Testament that speak of being baptized with the Holy Spirit and that 4 of them clearly put it as a future event (fulfilled for the whole church on Pentecost). In these passages John and Jesus prophesied that the baptism of the Holy Spirit or the outpouring of the Holy Spirit would come upon God’s people collectively (to fall on God’s church) in the future. That outpouring of the Spirit (Pentecost) was a separate event from the water baptism of the disciples a few years before.

In the history of the church, John the Baptist to some degree ushered in the New Testament Era by baptizing people with water. However, his baptism was not with the full understanding of accepting Jesus which wouldn’t come until after Jesus was resurrected and ascended back to heaven when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church on Pentecost. This was for the church as a whole, in one grand event.

However, individually receiving the filling of the Holy Spirit isn’t exactly the same thing as the Spirit being poured out on the whole church. *Didn’t the disciples already receive the Holy Spirit to some extent before Pentecost?* They healed people and cast out demons. They may not have understood it as the Holy Spirit, but it still was, right? John, the Apostle, in his Gospel uses the present tense (Greek present participle) instead of the future when speaking about the baptism of the Spirit. **Read John 1:33.** He uses “the same tense” when speaking of “another important work of Jesus: taking away the sins of the world.” **Read John 1:29.** “The ministry of Jesus consists in taking away our sins and in giving us the Holy Spirit.

This twofold experience is also reported in Acts 2:38. **Read Acts 2:38.** When these folks’ “eyes were opened to Christ,” they received both: forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit.” It’s supposed to be one event. Read from the narrative (mid page). “Water baptism is known....signal our new birth.” **Read John 3:5.** Continue reading from where we left off in the narrative. “In baptism we are....associate with miraculous gifts.”

What does the author mean by “no second work of grace at a later stage of life”? There are two views of salvation that affect how one sees the timing of a person receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

View One: Many see salvation as mostly outside of ourself. That is, a person believes and accepts Jesus as Saviour, receives forgiveness, and gets baptized. That’s salvation full and complete. This view naturally leads to an understanding that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a second act of grace that will come at a later time in life, resulting in the person receiving gifts of the Spirit to enable service or ministry for God. In this view, initially accepting Jesus and getting

baptized is totally separate from receiving the Holy Spirit or being baptized of the Holy Spirit. Salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are two distinct and separate events.

View Two: Many see that when we believe, repent, receive forgiveness, and are baptized, then we also receive the Holy Spirit. In this view being baptized of the Holy Spirit, receiving the Holy Spirit is one event with accepting Jesus and getting baptized in water.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. Read the final paragraph of the narrative section.

Ask the three questions from the box at the bottom of the page. Then ask, *Can one be a committed Christian without the baptism of the Holy Spirit?*

Discuss Friday's Discussion Question #3. The point is that it is impossible to be a transformed person/Christian without receiving the Holy Spirit.

MONDAY: BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (What is it?)

Read Eph. 5:8 and Rom. 8:9. *What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit in Rom. 8:9? If God's Spirit is in you, you are not living by the flesh. What if you are not filled with God's Spirit? You are not His – meaning not one of God's people – not really a Christian!*

Read 4 lines from the narrative. "Once we are baptized....filled with the Spirit." For some examples, **Read Luke 1:41, 67; Acts 2:4, Acts 13:9.**

*How does being filled with the Spirit happen in our lives? Read Acts 2:38 again. 1.) Repentance, forgiveness and water baptism. 2.) Faith. Gal. 3:2, 14. (We'll develop this more on Tuesday's page.) 3.) Full surrender. **Read Luke 1:38. Read Acts 9: 3-6.** *What attitude does Saul (Paul) show here? He's ready to do whatever God asks – full surrender. Is that the attitude that makes it possible for God to fill a person with the Holy Spirit? Read Acts 9:17-18.* The key is to be emptied of self to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Read/share the paragraph on alcohol versus the Holy Spirit.*

Read Acts 13:52. Read the final three paragraphs of the narrative. "In the Greek of....Sanctifier, Guide, and Witness."

TUESDAY: CONDITIONS (Part 1)

Read the short opening paragraph. **Read Acts 2:37-38.** *What is the first condition for receiving the Holy Spirit? In vs. 37 we see the people under conviction. Peter's response is to call them to repentance. Why is conviction and repentance necessary for receiving the Holy Spirit? Share highlights from the narrative as follows. "...conscience...can lead us to an awareness of our true sinfulness and lost condition. True repentance...is a thorough change of heart and mind so that we see sin for what it is: an ugly evil and rebellion against God." **So repentance is actually full surrender; being emptied of self or dying to self.** And..."The only way that we can experience true repentance is to be touched by the love of God." **The love of god and conviction of sin are the preludes of repentance. No one experiences repentance without having both.***

Read Gal. 3:14. Read James 1:6-8. *What can we expect from God if we don't ask in faith? Nothing. Why can't we receive anything of the Lord if we don't ask in faith? Well, you can't receive what you don't believe – probably wouldn't ask anyway if we don't believe, right? So,*

would that include receiving the Holy Spirit? Yes, the promise of the Holy Spirit comes through faith. Without faith we waver and miss out. You can't have what you don't believe!

WEDNESDAY: CONDITIONS (Part 2)

Read Acts 5:32. *What is the condition for receiving the Holy Spirit in this verse? Obedience. Why is obedience to God's Word an important condition for receiving the Holy Spirit? If we have faith in God, really trust God with all our hearts, we will obey His word. Failure to obey shows a lack of trust and faith in God. Share highlights from the top half page as desired (very good verses there). *Why do you think God would not pour out His Holy Spirit on those who knowingly are disobedient to His will?* They are not trusting Him. They are not loving Him. They are obedient to Satan. How could God's Spirit be in them when evil is there? Impossible!!!!*

Read Jude 18-21. *In these verses who does not have the Spirit of God? Those walking after their own ungodly lusts and are sensual. Why do we need to avoid all impurity if we want to be filled with the Spirit? One can't be filled with the Spirit if he/she is filled with the lusts of the flesh. According to Gal. 5:17 the Spirit and flesh are diametrically opposed. Jesus said that no man could serve two masters in Matt. 6:24.*

Share highlights from the lower paragraph, then sum up all the conditions for both Tuesday and Wednesday's lessons. *Why do there have to be conditions? Read the paragraph "Just for Teachers" in the Teachers' Comments on page 68.*

Read the quotation in the box and the question at the bottom of Wednesday's page. For help with this, go to Friday's "Discussion Question" #2. Read the first question, Then ask: *If self is **not** put aside, is it in the way of the Holy Spirit? Of Course! Read the second question under #2. Can you imagine what God could do with you if you really let Him? Reread the quotation in the box on Wednesday's lesson. Do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit?*

THURSDAY: SELF-CENTERED LIVING VERSUS CHRIST-CENTERED LIVING

Read Ephesians 5:1-9 or just sum up the basic differences as put together in the chart. Read the sentence that heads the chart before going into the details of the chart. Share highlights from or read the short paragraph that follows the chart.

Why is living in the power of the Holy Spirit so challenging on a daily basis?

1.) We really do have a fallen nature, and we get tired of being surrendered and selfless. We tend to underestimate our natural evil bent and how desperately we must cling to Jesus and receive the aid of the Holy Spirit.

2.) Read from the Teachers' Comments, page 66, "Just for Teachers." "When we become insensitive...Spirit of Christ brings." Read from Thursday's narrative. "We cannot transform ourselves...of the Holy Spirit." Read the question in the box at the bottom of the page.

Conclusion: *What are some practical principles in receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit each day? We must spend time in prayer and Bible reading/learning.*

Changes in our lives have to come from a heart renewed by the Holy Spirit. We find hope in claiming Phil. 1:6. "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."