

THE POWER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE (Outline)

Mark 16:15-16, “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Acts 8:5 and 12, “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.” “¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

Were these people believers? Yes. Had they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Jesus is the only One to baptize in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

The purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to empower you to be a witness of Jesus Christ.

John 20:22, “And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”

Here we see the regeneration of the disciples’ spirits. But in Acts 1:8 we see the empowerment of the disciples for preaching and witnessing of Jesus. It’s an immersion in the Holy Spirit that comes upon a person to empower him.

Acts 19:1-6, “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ²He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. ³And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. ⁴Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

These disciples needed the Holy Spirit baptism. It is a separate and distinct experience. There are two ways to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

1. By a sovereign act of God - Acts 10:44, “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.” Once these people became believers in Jesus, they were open to the Holy Spirit. God sovereignly baptized them in the Holy Spirit. This experience came directly from God.
2. By the laying on of hands - Acts 19:6, “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” A person already baptized in the Holy Spirit lays his hands on the one desiring to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Both of these experiences are supernatural.

Acts 2:37-41, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

This promised Holy Spirit is for you—for empowerment to witness what Jesus has done for you. If you haven’t been baptized in the Holy Spirit, ask Jesus right now to do so. The Holy Spirit is a perfect gentlemen; He won’t baptize you with His power without your permission.