

**Introduction:**

- In 1918, Admiral Sir Thomas Williams, a straight-forward and excellent man, was in command of a ship crossing the Atlantic. His course brought him in sight of the island of Ascension, at that time uninhabited and never visited except for the purpose of collecting turtles. The island was barely visible on the horizon, but as Sir Thomas looked at it he was seized by an unaccountable desire to steer towards it. His desire became more and more urgent and distressing, and foreseeing that it would soon be more difficult to satisfy it, he told his lieutenant to prepare to "put about ship" and steer in that direction. The officer respectfully reasoned in protest that changing course would greatly delay them. This only increased the Admiral's anxiety, and the ship was steered towards the island. All eyes were fixed upon it, and soon something was perceived on the shore. "It is white—it is a flag—it must be a signal!" When they neared the shore they discovered that sixteen men, wrecked on the coast many days before, and suffering hunger, had set up a signal, although almost without hope of relief. What made the Admiral steer his ship in the very opposite direction to what he and his crew wanted was but the Spirit of God. —Walter Baxendale. Tan, P. L. (1996). *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (p. 490). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc. **Application:** It is amazing how the Spirit of God still moves men's hearts today...all because God cares!
- Last week we looked at how Jesus prepared the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit. We also looked at what He clarified they would be receiving. Preparation and Clarification for Baptism in the Holy Spirit, by Jesus. He knew from the Father that all believers were to receive the Holy Spirit.
- Living as we are today in the closing hours of this age, we need the Holy Spirit. It is of utmost importance that the work and infilling of the Comforter should not only be preached, but understood, longed for and received.
  - You may ask, "Is it necessary that Saints today receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?"
  - I ask you, "Is it necessary for the vegetation of the earth to receive the rain as well as the sunshine?" The Son of Righteousness himself has shined upon your heart but the Rain of the Holy Spirit is who gives you day to day life and refreshing.
  - Being saved is not enough! Yes, being saved gets you to heaven. Yes, being saved gets your fire insurance. Yes, being saved gives you peace with God. But...Jesus Himself exhorted us to be filled with the Holy Spirit! Jesus declared to us that we would need the Holy Spirit to complete the mandate of heaven and the mission of our lives-MAKE DISCIPLES.
- Some have thoughtlessly declared—"I have Jesus in my heart, and I do not need the Holy Spirit."
  - But you do need Him! Jesus Himself said: *"Receive the Holy Ghost,"* and *"If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you."* (John 14:15-17, NLT)
  - Then I state the obvious: "If Jesus needed to be endued with power before He began His ministry? How much more do you and I need the Holy Spirit today?"

## I. The Urgency Of The Day

- A. As we read through the Gospels, and definitely in the Book of Acts, we see the urgency of the scriptures pointing us to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. And as we read them we sense the zeal of the Lord prompting us to receive Him. Let's look at some prompting scriptures.
1. John the Baptist starts it off... *"I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."* (Matthew 3:11, NLT; Mark 1:8; Jn 1:33) That just sounds exciting if I am listening to John the Baptist for the First time. Holy Spirit and fire!
  2. Jesus lives out this urgency. He receives the Holy Spirit at His baptism. Is lead into the wilderness to be tempted and He overcomes. *"Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region."* (Luke 4:14, NLT) He starts preaching, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." Again this is exciting! That a man would have the presence of the Holy Spirit resting upon Him. Empowered by God.
  3. Oh, how much more the Father longs to give you the Holy Spirit! *"So if you sinful people 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 11:13, NLT)
  4. *"But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me."* (John 15:26, NLT)
  5. When you read these passages it does not sound like something we would want to be optional. It sounds like Heaven wants all believers to have this wonderful gift of the Spirit.
- B. The Disciples response to the promptings from God for them to receive the Holy Spirit is one of urgency. They seem to waste no time in positioning themselves to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. They were commanded by Jesus to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came. We 'guesstimate' that 500 heard that exhortation but 120 actually showed up. I can see them as arrived from the mount of Olives.
1. Can you picture Peter, hurrying through the streets to get to that upper room? Hope in his eyes! Joy in his steps. *"Where you going Pete?" "To the upper room to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!"*
    - a) Are you sure you need the Holy Spirit? After all, you have already worked miracles and preach successfully to crowds. Weren't the sick healed and demons cast out?
    - b) But, ...People may think you are backslidden. Given your track record.
    - c) Yes, yes indeed! I need the Holy Spirit. I failed in the hour of testing. I need the Holy Spirit. Do not detain me any longer. Up the stairs he goes!
  2. Around the corner comes Thomas. *"Where are you going in such a hurry, Tommy?" "To the upper room! To receive the Gift from the Father!"* No doubt sounds in his words.
    - a) *"Do you think a doubter like you could receive such and experience?"*
    - b) *"Yes, Glory to Jesus! The promise is for me. My past is all under the blood. This is just the power that I need to banish doubts forever from my heart and mind,"* and on he hurries, down the street and up the stairs to the upper room.
  3. Then comes two soft spoken ladies, Garments waving in the wind.

- a) "Excuse me, excuse me. Mary and Martha where are you going so quickly?"
  - b) "We have come with hungry hearts, to be obedient to Christ's command to wait here in the upper room until we receive the Comforter"
  - c) "Mary, come now! You have sat at the feet of Jesus. You have been close to Him from the very start of His ministry. Surely you do not need the Holy Spirit. Martha maybe???"  
"But not you!" "Oh, but I want this Holy Spirit that the Master spoke of! The one who will lead us into all truth. Remind us of things He taught. And fill us with power to be His witnesses!" Delay us no longer we must go! Around the corner and up the stairs they go.
4. There goes Mary Magdalen, John, Andrew, Matthew and a whole host of others! All heading to the upper room!
5. Then the real shocker comes.... "Is that Mary? The Mother of Jesus?" Mary, slightly stooped down, leaning on the strength of others. Heart pierced by the events of the times. Yet eyes full of hope and joy. Saying, "Come! Let us gather as He commanded and wait for the precious promise of the Father to be given."
- a) "Mary, surely you do not need this gift! You are holy enough. You were the pure virgin that looked into the face of an angel! You carried the Christ child! Mary! Do you really need this baptism of the Holy Spirit?"
  - b) "Who am I to disobey my Lord? Never before have I felt the need for the Comforter like now, now that Jesus is with the Father.
- C. When it comes to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit the scripture does not leave this as optional. It commands us...It leads us...It urges us to receive the Holy Spirit. The Father in all His wisdom has provided for us to receive this Gift from Him. There is urgency by God through the prompting of Scripture to receive the Holy Spirit. Not only that but...

## II. In Scripture, The Baptism of The Holy Spirit Was a High Priority

- A. To God the Father
- 1. "But when **the Father sends the Advocate** as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you." (John 14:26, NLT)
  - 2. "But I will send you the Advocate—the **Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father** and will testify all about me." (John 15:26, NLT)
  - 3. "So if you sinful people 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 11:13, NLT)
  - 4. The coolest one concerning the Father is Acts 10:44. "Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message." (Acts 10:44, NLT)  
God, the Father did not wait for Peter to finish his sermon!
- B. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was a high priority to Jesus Acts 1:4
- 1. "Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before." (Acts 1:4, NLT)
- C. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was a high priority to the early church at Jerusalem. Acts 8:14-17

1. Samaria receives the Holy Spirit. *"When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there. As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. As soon as they arrive they laid hands on them." (Acts 8:14-17, NLT)*
  2. It was expected that new converts would receive the Holy Spirit. *"Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38, NLT)*
  3. Paul receives the Holy Spirit. *"So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17, NLT)*
  4. Cornelius receives Holy Spirit. As was mentioned earlier. Acts 10:44 The Holy Spirit fell while Peter was preaching.
  5. Acts 11:17 *God baptized them with Holy Spirit like he did us! Who was I to stand in the way!*
    - a) Don't stand in the way of what God desires to do!
- D. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was a high priority to Paul the apostle.
1. Acts 19:5-6 Paul finds some believers. The first thing he asks: *"Did you receive the Holy Spirit?"* They said, *"We have not ever heard that there was a Holy Spirit!"*
  2. Paul preaches of Jesus, they are saved and water baptized into Christ. Then he immediately lays hands on them and they receive the Holy Spirit.

**Conclusion:**

- Will you make the Baptism of the Holy Spirit a priority in your life today?
- God wants you baptized, immersed with His Spirit.
- We cannot be gradually baptized in the Holy Spirit, just as you cannot be gradually baptized in water. You may be baptized in the Spirit today and experience gradual fillings thereafter but to be baptized is to be immersed in the Holy Spirit.
- "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to **all** who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."