



Life Group Study Notes

“The Path (Know): Holy Spirit Baptism”

Ps. Bruce Fidler - June 2, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- If you could go on an adventure vacation, what would you do?
- What gives you energy?
- Would you rather go to a sporting event, a theater-musical production, or a concert?

Word (10-15 minutes)

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Acts 2:36-41 ESV “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

Believers are indwelled by the Holy Spirit, but should also be baptized in the Spirit.

Jesus, the Son of God, was made incarnate by the Holy Spirit and is assumed to have been indwelled by the Spirit in his humanity from the moment of his conception. Yet the Spirit did not come “upon” him until he was about thirty years old and was about to begin his public ministry. It was only after the Holy Spirit came upon him that he began to preach with power and perform signs and wonders.

In an act that echoes the Genesis account of the creation of Adam, Jesus breathed on his disciples on the first day of his resurrection and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22 ESV). Yet these disciples were later instructed to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit’s empowerment as recorded in Luke 24 and Acts 1.

Fundamentally, every person who repents and believes the Gospel concerning Jesus Christ receives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, they are one in Spirit with the Lord, and are able to develop a deep, intimate knowledge of the Lord. After all, Jesus as a twelve

year old boy demonstrated the rich depth of his spiritual life as recorded in Luke 2:41-52. The Holy Spirit had not yet descended upon him with power for public ministry, yet he possessed a deep awareness of his relationship to God the Father and a profound understanding of the Scriptures. Anyone who is a Christian is fully capable of producing the fruit of the Spirit because of the Spirit's indwelling, regardless of whether they have received the Spirit's empowerment for God's mission.

On the other hand, receiving the empowerment of the Holy Spirit makes possible a far more effective witness and ministry for the believer as they engage in God's mission to make disciples of all nations. Jesus called this empowerment being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The fundamental purpose of the Holy Spirit baptism is to empower God's people for effective engagement in God's mission.

- Acts 1:7-8 (ESV) *He said to them... "(Y)ou will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

The Holy Spirit's empowerment is intended and available for all God's people.

- Acts 2:38-39 (ESV) *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."*

The Holy Spirit's empowerment is permanently and repeatedly available to each believer.

- Acts provides examples of believers being "filled" or empowered on a repeated basis. The apostle Peter, for example, is identified as experiencing this in Acts 2; 4:8; 4:23-31.

Speaking in tongues was the normal experience of the first believers baptized in the Spirit.

- Speaking in tongues was apparently a customary benefit bestowed upon all who were initially filled with the Holy Spirit. This was true on the day of Pentecost (Ac 2:1-4; Cornelius' household (Ac 10:44-47); the Ephesian men (Ac 19:6-7); and Saul (cf. 1 Co 14:15, 18).
- Hence, the overall biblical evidence supports the proposition that persons being baptized in the Holy Spirit should expect to receive the ability to speak in tongues. However, the biblical evidence does not permit the proposition that unless one speaks in tongues, it is evidence that they have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This would be faulty logic.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What is one thing you learned from this lesson?
- Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? When did you experience this?
- When was the last time you were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the gift of his Spirit, both for his indwelling and his empowering.
- Ask God for a fresh infilling of his Spirit to enable you to be his effective witness.
- Ask God for opportunities to pray for others to be filled with the Holy Spirit.