

BUILDING FOR ETERNITY

4. Baptism in the Spirit: Living in His Power



INTRODUCTION

Many people are working hard to be financially secure in this life, but as believers we are building, not just for this life, but for eternity. We have been looking at the truths we need to know and put into practise so our lives will be built on a foundation that will last. In our previous study we learnt about water baptism, and now we will learn about another baptism – and that is baptism in the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist spoke about both baptisms in Matthew 3:11. He was baptising those who came to him and repented of their sin, but he said that Jesus was the One who would baptise in the Holy Spirit.

Everything Jesus did was in the power of the Spirit. He wants to give us this same power, so we can live as God's children and do the same things that he did. We receive this power through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 - 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.'

BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

The word 'baptism' is used for baptism in water and in the Spirit. When you are baptised in water you are immersed in the water. In a similar way, when you are baptised in the Spirit, you are immersed in Him and the rivers of Living Water flow from within you. This is referred to in different ways.

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| Acts 2:4 | 'filled with the Spirit' |
| Luke 24:49 | 'clothed with power from on high' |

1. Who is the baptism of the Spirit for?

- Acts 2:38-39 - It is for those who have repented of their sin and believed in Jesus.
- It is for those who are far off. This means it is for us today!
If you have given your life to Jesus then the baptism of the Spirit is for you.

Share: Ask those who have been baptised in the Spirit if they would like to share their experience with others and the difference this has made in their lives.

2. What happens when you are baptised in the Spirit?

God meets us in different ways, and each of us responds differently to him. Some feel his presence in dramatic ways, while others don't, but what is important is that we receive his power to live as an effective witness. Some people just want a dramatic experience, but if it has no lasting effect in our lives, it is of little value. Let's be thirsty to be filled with the Holy Spirit so we can be witnesses for Jesus.

Let's see what happened in the book of Acts when the early believers were baptised in the Spirit.

- a.) Acts 2:4 - The power of God came in a mighty way!

- They all began to speak in tongues. This was a sign that they had been baptised in the Spirit.
 - Notice the results: v5-8, 12-13. They had power to witness for Jesus.
- b.) Acts 19:1-7
- The power of God touched these men and they spoke in tongues.
 - Notice the results: v9-10, 20. They were all filled with power.

Perhaps some of you have already been baptised in the Spirit and speak in tongues. This foundation has been laid in your lives, but it is not enough just to have had a past experience. We must continue to be filled with the Spirit daily.

Ephesians 5:18 'Be filled' means to 'be being filled' – it is in the present continuous tense.

If your group is large, divide into smaller groups of 3-5 people and appoint a leader of each group, giving them 10-15 minutes to discuss the following questions:

1. *How can I be continually filled with the Spirit? Share what has helped you personally.*
2. *What is the evidence that a person is walking in the Spirit? Discuss.*

Ask the groups to share their answers before continuing.

3. How can you be continually filled with the Spirit?

a. Keep on obeying the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:9, 12-14

If you want to be continually filled with the Spirit then you need to obey what he prompts you to do. When we disobey we are yielding to the old nature and grieving the Holy Spirit. Ask God's forgiveness and obey what he is saying to you.

b. Keep on asking Jesus to fill you with his Spirit

John 7:37-39

If you have never been baptised in the Spirit, here is an invitation from Jesus. Ask him, and you will receive. However the meaning of these verses are that we are to keep on coming and keep on drinking. Daily, or many times daily we can reach out in faith to be filled afresh.

c. Keep on speaking in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs

Ephesians 5:18-20

Many who are baptised in the Spirit receive a new language called 'tongues'. God gives this wonderful gift to help us be continually filled with his Spirit. As we sing and speak songs in the language we know, and in the Spirit, we are drawn closer to Jesus and he strengthens us.

4. What is the evidence that you are walking in the Spirit?

Matthew 7:20 'By their fruit you will recognise them.'

If the character of Jesus is seen in a person's life then you know they are walking in the Spirit. Even if a person has vast amounts of Bible knowledge, if the fruit of the Spirit is not in their life, then they are not walking in the Spirit. You can see a list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:19-25.

Conclusion

God's plan and purpose for our lives is that we are his witnesses, and to do that we need the power of the Holy Spirit. If you have never been baptised in the Spirit, would you like us to pray for you today?

If you have been baptised in the Spirit in the past, this foundation has been laid in your life. However it isn't enough just to have had a past experience, we need to live this out in our lives by being filled with the Spirit continually. Why not ask Jesus to fill you up again now?

(It would be good to close with a time of ministry.)