

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

By Tom Stephens

Part Two: Walking In God's Holy Spirit

(Emphasis of any sort are mine—KJV)

The Righteous:

Jesus presented to His people in a wonderful way in the Gospel of John. In the fourth chapter Jesus said to the woman at the well of Samaria, “*Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again.*” (indicating the well water). “*But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life*”—*The Outpouring of the Spirit* (John 4:13-14).

Then in John 7:37-39, we read, “*In the last day, that day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*”

The water in both of these scriptures is a type of the Holy Ghost. Two events are mentioned. **1)** Jesus said to the woman at the well, “*But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*” And **2)** “*Out of his belly (innermost being) shall flow rivers of living water.*” Note that this is the event of the Holy Ghost in the life of the born again child of our God—“rivers of living water.”

“*As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committing them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voices, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city*” (Acts 8: 3-8).

Take note the sequence of events concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit when God sent His Spirit to fill, empower and reside in the lives of His followers, the Samaritan Christians. It was Philip preaching the message by the Power of the Holy Spirit about Christ, and God then confirmed the Word with powerful miracles.

¹²*But 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. ¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. ¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. Many Samaritans accepted the Word of the Lord in vs. 14, and believed in Jesus (vs. 12), were healed and set free from evil spirits (Acts 8: 12-18)*

Many Samaritans received God's Word, believed in Jesus, were healed and set free from evil spirits. Then they were baptized in water. This was their spiritual salvation, the life transforming work of the Holy Spirit and the power of God's kingdom. The Samaritans had fully met the conditions for receiving spiritual salvation and were Christians even before the Spirit came upon them! Believing, they were baptized. The faith of the Samaritans was genuine saving faith; the kind that gave them a legitimate personal relationship with Jesus. Both Philip and the apostles considered the Samaritans faith to be valid. The Samaritans publicly acknowledged their commitment to Christ through water baptism; for “*he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16).

“¹⁵*If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; ¹⁷Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you*” (John 14:16-18).

It's important to note that Jesus said ***"If ye Love me, keep my commandments"***. To me the meaning here is that we will never be able to receive the Comforter as long as we are not committed to Jesus Christ. He only honors those who love him and obey His Word. The phrase, ***"If ye love Me."*** Strongly suggests that a continuing attitude of love and obedience is required in order to receive the power of His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is "another Comforter," just as Jesus Himself had been for His disciples. "Comforter may be described as "a helper" or "advocate". The Holy Spirit will complete that which Jesus began while on earth. If we remain faithful, Jesus will be by His servants, help, strengthen and teach the truth and guide us for the rest of our lives. He will intercede for us in desperate times.

Jesus said, *"Even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."*

The receiving of the Holy Ghost is not just an incident, but it is the precious Holy Spirit, The Advocate, Living Water, High Priest. He is the Author and the Finisher of our faith. He is the Almighty, the True Vine. He is the Mediator between God and man; and **He is the One who Pours out the Holy Spirit on His people!**

Without His presence in our lives; and the power He provides, we Are No Longer Brides!

Apostle Paul wrote to the New Testament church, those who were born again and filled with the Holy Ghost. ***It was favored that all who loves the Lord should be filled with the Holy Ghost and to speak with other tongues.*** Others who were not filled were the exception and not the normal. Paul said, *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3: 16).

Speaking to the entire church or local community of Christians—who's bodies are the temple of God; we are the dwelling place for the Spirit of God. God's people in Corinth were not to participate in the evil that was all around them. They were to reject all forms of ungodly and immoral beliefs and behaviors. God's temple must be holy, morally pure, and separated from evil and dedicated fully to God—because God Himself is holy.

And in 1 Corinthians 6:18-19, ***Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"***

Sexual sins involving believers are particularly offensive to God and destructive to individuals and the church, not only because multiple lives are affected, but also because such sin defiles the body—***the temple of the Holy Spirit***. That is why Paul gives such a strong warning to stay away from activities and situations that could even entice a person to think or behave in a sexually immoral way (2 Tim. 2:22). The use of the present tense here indicates that the Christian must deliberately and repeatedly avoid situations that may tempt him or her to defy God in this way (Gen. 39:12).

¹Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴And patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. ⁶For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

¹***What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth***

we should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin.⁸Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.¹¹Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.¹³Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace (Rom. 6:1-14).

Believers cannot continue in sin! Paul challenged the faulty notion that believers may keep sinning, remaining secure and guilt-free in their salvation because of God's grace. Those who hold this misguided goal are deceiving themselves. They believed they were not obligated to God's moral laws as long as they had faith and relied on God's grace. Paul is strongly against this twisted view of God's grace by presenting one of the most basic of all spiritual truths. **Genuine believers are identified as being "in Christ" because they are "dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God"**. They walk in His Spirit on a daily basis, and not in the flesh—which *always* brings forth death! The godly are free from the evils of sin; and are unresponsive to its influence on their lives—justified through the Lord Jesus Christ. We are dead unto sin, but alive unto our God. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost with signs that follow absolutely require the full righteousness of the saints of God. The act of baptism outwardly shows the believers decision to identify with Jesus' death and resurrection; a sign that the believer has put away all sin and his old rebellion. Persons who continue living in sin without repentance daily cannot relate to Jesus and cannot live a righteous life "in Christ".

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies; therefore allowing **no sin** to reign in your body. Sin tries to reign mostly through the desires and temptations involving the body. We must resist these desires by relying on the spiritual strengths available to us through the "pouring out of the Holy Spirit"; whereby we, through His power might resist all evil desires in the reliance of the power and strength given by the Holy Spirit.

The Unrighteous:

In 2 Corinthians 6:16, Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, ***"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."***

Apostle Paul holds a case against unholy alliances between God's people and ungodly people or things. This was aimed particularly at keeping the Corinthian believers from associating with the idol worship that was prevalent in their society and in which many of them likely participated before receiving Christ (1 Cor. 8:1-5). It also presents a strong argument for the fact that born-again Christians (John 3:3-7), as temples of the Holy Spirit, cannot be **demon possessed**, or have an **evil spirit** living in and controlling them. **Idols**, both in the Old and New Testaments represented **demonic entities**. For this reason, the worst form of moral corruption in the OT was to set up **idols** in God's own temple. In the same way, we must never defile our bodies—the Spirits dwelling place—by **associating with evil** and allowing **demons** to have influence on our lives, where "**Belial**" refers to **Satan**; though an **evil spirit** cannot live alongside the Holy Spirit within a true Christian, there may be circumstances in which an **evil spirit** lives in an individual who is open to the message of Christ with a desire to turn his or her life over to God. Such a person has not yet been saved and renewed by His Spirit. In this case no one's spiritual conversion would require the driving out of **demons** from a person who sincerely desires to follow Christ, yet is experiences problems with certain sins. Until the **demonic power or spiritual stronghold** is broken, that person cannot handle the authentic spiritual salvation in becoming "the temple of the living God."

¹²But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. ¹³For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for **Satan** himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Satan is the great deceiver, and uses evil people as his agents, transforming them into “false apostles, deceitful workers” and leading them to gain influence in the church and among other Christians. **1)** The Bible speaks of these deceitful leaders as people who, energized by Satan, appear to accomplish great things for God (vs.15; Rev.13:2); preach appealing messages (vs.4); and appear to be good and moral people. However, in reality, they reject true godliness and deny its power. (2 Tim. 3:5). **2)** These people disguise themselves as “apostles of Christ” and “ministers of righteousness” (vs. 15). Some of these individuals may actually have genuine care and concern, and they may preach forgiveness, peace, fulfillment, love and many other helpful things—yet they are seriously misguided and living under Satan’s influence. One evidence of their false teaching that their message is based on human reasoning and not a true interpretation of God’s revelation (Gal. 1:6-7). It departs from authentic New Testament belief as revealed in the Bible. **3)** All Christ followers must beware of these misleading ministers (vs. 3-4; Mat. 7:15). We must be faithful to look beyond their charisma, eloquent speech, education, miracles so that we are not deceived by their message. **4)** All religious leaders are to be judged according to their attitude and loyalty to the message of salvation through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and to His original message as given in the New Testament.

¹⁹Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. ²⁰But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. ²¹Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. ²²Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. ²³For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity” (Acts 8: 19-23).

When the Spirit came upon the Samaritans, there were obvious outward signs apparent even to Simon, the sorcerer (someone who claimed supernatural powers). ***It is normal to conclude that the outward evidence was like that which occurred after the Spirit’s first coming on Jesus’ followers on the day of Pentecost, mainly the speaking in other tongues.*** This outward sign gave both the Samaritans and the Apostles proof that the Holy Spirit had come to empower the new believers.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the book of Acts occurs **only** among those who had already received Jesus Christ and were committed to following him. **1)** Simon wanted the gift of the Holy Spirit and power, as well as the authority to pass on the gift, for selfish and ungodly reasons. Simon was rejected because his heart was not right with God, and he was still wicked and “**in the bond of iniquity**”. The genuine gift of the Holy Spirit is given only on those “**that fear Him, and worketh righteousness.**” **2)** Before and after Pentecost, Christ’s followers were devoted to Jesus as their risen Savior and Lord. (Acts 1:2-14), and they committed to continual prayer. They separated themselves from sin and the ungodly beliefs and behaviors of the world and obeyed the apostles’ teaching. ***Repeated or fresh outpourings of the Holy Spirit were given only to those who had turned from their own sinful and rebellious ways in order to obey and follow.*** Following the Spirit’s guidance and allowing God to develop his character in our lives are always conditions of being filled with His Spirit. **3)** Any supernatural experience thought to be the baptism in the Spirit occurring in a person who does not have a personal relationship with Jesus and is still following their own sinful nature is not from Christ. It is rather a “counterfeit” baptism in the Spirit and may be characterized by **demonic signs and powers.**

The only proof that we have been filled with the Holy Ghost is the Gift of speaking in tongues.

Resources:

Tom Stephens. After the Resurrection, What Then. www.christsbondservants.org. Publ. by Tom Stephens.
Full Life Study Bible. KJV. Zondervan Publishing House. Grand Rapids, Michigan
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