

### SERMON GUIDE:

July 30, 2023, Pastor St. John Eyre

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *(sermon notes start on page 3)*

A note to those who have been walking with the Lord for several years:

While the well-seasoned Christian may find this sermon un-insightful let's never lose sight that at some point, we all were just growing in our newfound relationship with salvation. It is this Pastors hope that you will find the celebration in a new convert beginning steps and commit to praying for those that choose to let go of the things of this world and point their lives towards the *narrow gate*. It is our job to edify the body.

A note to those who are relatively new to walking in their faith:

I could not be more excited for you. You have made a decision that has set your life in a direction towards heaven. Christianity can seem awkward at first. I was so personally intimidated when I compared myself to people that had been Christians for many years. I was like a fish out of water, so to speak. First, stop comparing yourself to others. God is well pleased with your decision and the Holy Spirit will guide you on your journey.

### Definitions

- Salvation/conversion – when a person asks to be saved, accepts the Lord as their savior. Romans 10:13
- Water Baptism – a believer's public demonstration of emersion in water to testify what God has done on the inside of their life (sin has been washed away). I Peter 3:21
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit – an internal anointing of spiritual gifts to empower a believer for life and service. Acts 1:4-5
- Sanctification – a transformed Christian that is fit for a holy purpose, set aside for a spiritual purpose. II Timothy 2:21

Of the four definitions above which must come first?

You cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit unless He already resides in us. You must first be saved. (Revelation 3:20)

What two spiritual progressive steps could take place at the same time?

When a person is saved the Holy Spirit will immediately reside in them as a guide. Does this mean they are baptized in the Holy Spirit? The answer could be *yes or no*. Some people do accept Jesus and are empowered by the Holy Spirit immediately (Acts 2:38) but others like the original disciples (who were at that



time believers) were told by Jesus to wait until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit so they would be empowered to witness. (Acts 1:4-5)

Which should you first receive – water baptism or baptism in the Holy Spirit?

This is a symbolic demonstration of an inward cleaning. A person can (and should) seek to be water baptized after accepting the gift of salvation. You do not have to be baptized in the Holy Spirit as a prerequisite to be water baptized.

The Bible tells stories of believers that were first water baptized and later filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:15-17).

In contrast, there were believers that were first filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit prior to being water baptized (Acts 10:44, 47-48).

When is a person sanctified?

Remember the definition for sanctification. Some say there are 3 steps to sanctification and others say there are 5 steps. But what does the Bible say? It must be something you are agreeable to or be cooperative towards. When I was called into ministry in my 30's I knew I was making a spiritual vow to serve the Lord in a deep and meaningful way. It meant setting aside any of my personal desires to follow the Lord in fulltime ministry. This does not mean that you must become a fulltime minister. A husband may sanctify his home as a place that will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15) and still work in banking. We are sanctified by God's Word. Sanctification is closely related to holiness. (Hebrews 10:10) It can be argued that all believers are sanctified but also true that sanctification is a progressive work of God to make the believer more Christ like. (Romans 6:19 NET)

What's next for you?

If you haven't been water baptized yet, consider registering to be water baptized on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you haven't been baptized in the Holy Spirit, pray and ask for this gift to empower you. The Holy Spirit is already in every believer, but the power of the Spirit is not yet active. This may include times of prayer before the Lord, times of fasting and seeking.

If you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you should always be asking the Lord to refill you continually.



## SERMON NOTES

### Three Types of Spiritual Progressions

Pastor St. John Eyre, July 30, 2023

Summary: Shows what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-4

Let me tell you about my water baptism.....(relate my personal experience – 1<sup>st</sup> was a baby in the Catholic Church, don't remember it, 2<sup>nd</sup> time as an adult after having accepted Christ)

Being a new believer can be confusing. It's like when you have to learn how to register for college, or when you have to prepare for retirement. Medicare, Medicaid, parts A & B, budget planning, investment portfolios, Social Security payments, dental plans (or implants), vision, hearing and more. As I was looking this up one financial planner had 99 tips to plan for retirement. I don't think I'll live long enough to read the entire list....just saying.

The same can be said when we first come into a relationship with Jesus Christ and accept him as our savior. Is that it? Is salvation the end all? What about water baptism and that thing about a baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Because of ignorance of the work of the Holy Spirit, many fail to realize that the Holy Spirit is a distinct and separate member of the Holy Trinity. He works in complete harmony with the Father and the Son, but He must not be confused with either of His divine associates. It is clearly stated in

1 John 5:7, "For there are three who bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit."

We as a believer of Christ and having accepted Him as our savior are instructed, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). When we start to understand the true distinction between the three personalities who compose the Holy Trinity properly, it will eliminate any confusions. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for believers today.** Today, my goal is to clearly communicate to each of you the difference on each part of the Trinity and water baptisms.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not Conversion.



A general held belief is that responding to an altar call, a conversion, or the experience of salvation, is identical with being baptized in the Holy Spirit. A well know evangelist, R.A. Torrey, who was a 19th century, Congregationalist minister and graduate of Yale University and Yale Divinity School, wrote a book called *What the Bible Teaches*:

"Not every believer has the baptism with the Holy Spirit, though every believer may have. A man may be regenerated by the Holy Spirit and still not be baptized with the Holy Spirit. In regeneration there is an impartation of life and the one who receives it is saved; in the baptism with the Holy Spirit there is an impartation of power and the one who receives it is fitted for service." Now do you see why I opened with things like Medicare & Medicaid, & parts A & B? Let me re-read what Pastor Torrey wrote once more....

The two experiences are entirely distinct from the standpoint of source, time, and nature. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Holy Spirit which takes place immediately after or sometime after conversion and which imparts special power to do service for God. I picture this as you buying a new vehicle. It drives nicely, AC works and such. But if you want that XM Satellite Radio to work, you have to subscribe to it to get it to work.

Let's examine or study a biblical pattern to establish the fact that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not identical with conversion. No doubt the disciples of Christ were converted/saved. They forsook families, occupations, lands, and material possessions to follow Jesus, to hear His teachings, and to assist in His ministry. Jesus told them on one occasion to "rejoice because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

The disciples did not experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit, however, until the Day of Pentecost—a time period after Jesus returned to heaven. This is know as the accension of Christ.

Remember Jesus had told them their names have been written in heaven before His ascension:

Luke 24:49, "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high"

Acts 1:4-5, "And being assembled together with them. He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now'".



This is the same as a child who grows up with a parent who is a minister. The child becomes a teenager, then an adult. Though they have spent their life up to this point seeing ministry in action they are not yet empowered (or approved) to lead ministry. Perhaps some bible schooling may be in order, some type of confirmation or ordination may take place.

Note that the promise of the Father was to be fulfilled and the people to whom the Lord was speaking were to be baptized in the Holy Spirit at a future time. Therefore, it is clear that the original followers and disciples of Christ did not receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit at the same time they were converted.

Paul. Scripture demonstrates explicitly that those who were not among the original followers of Christ but became believers at a later date received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at a time distinct and after their conversion. The apostle Paul is a prime example. He was miraculously converted as he journeyed to Damascus, but it was three days later that he was filled with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 9:1-17).

Twelve Men at Ephesus. The experience of 12 men at Ephesus also confirms the fact that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is an entirely different spiritual blessing than being converted.

"Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' And they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' . . . And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:1, 6).

These men at Ephesus were converted men. They were believers and were called disciples. Yet Paul asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" Although active believers, they were not baptized in the Holy Spirit until Paul laid his hands upon them.

The Samaritans. When Philip went to Samaria to preach the gospel, "the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did" (Acts 8:6). The people accepted the gospel and were converted.

However, they were not baptized in the Holy Spirit until Peter and John came to them at a later time. "Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit" (w. 14, 15).



It is amply clear from the Word of God that the experience of salvation is entirely different from being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Conversion comes first. Receiving the Holy Spirit may be next in line. Not I say "may be next"? Conversion is the experience whereby the believer is born into the great family of Christians. The baptism in the Holy Spirit supplies the Christian "with power from on high" to witness and work for the Lord in the most effective manner.

Here comes Medicare, parts A & B - The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not Water Baptism

The Bible stands as an eternal witness against ill-informed scholars of the Word who insist that water baptism and the Holy Spirit baptism are identical. I am not discrediting water baptism. Jesus himself was baptized in water, and He is our example (see Matthew 3:16). He commanded His followers to baptize all believers "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (28:19). Water baptism consists of being dipped, or immersed, in water in obedience to the Lord's teaching; the Holy Spirit baptism is a supernatural experience in which the Holy Spirit fills a person (Ephesians 5:18). One may be baptized in water either before or after receiving the Holy Spirit baptism. We have examples of both in the Bible.

Cornelius and his family and friends were baptized with the Holy Spirit first. At a later time, they were baptized in water. Acts 10:44, 47-48 states,

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the message."

"Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

After the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on these people and they had spoken with tongues, Peter was asking "Can anyone stand in the way of these people now being baptized in water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

By now, your head may be spinning. I accept Christ's salvation first – Got It!!! But what is the next step? Water baptism or Holy Spirit baptism? Just hang with me for the next few moments and I'll clear this up.

The Samaritans, however, were baptized in water first, after they believed, and were later baptized in the Holy Spirit. "When they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized (in water). . . . Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that



Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized (in water) in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:15-17

So this now confirms to us that salvation must take place first. After that the baptism in water or the baptism of the Holy Spirit may be next.

The Samaritans were baptized in water under the ministry of Philip and at a subsequent time were baptized in the Holy Spirit under the ministry of Peter and John. The 12 men at Ephesus also were baptized in the Holy Spirit after they had been baptized in water. These men were actually baptized in water twice - once according to the doctrine of John the Baptist, which was a baptism of repentance. The second time by Paul in the name of Jesus. Afterward, "when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (19:6). Water baptism and baptism in the Holy Spirit are separate and unrelated experiences.

Now I'm going to throw another curve ball at you. Ready?

#### THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the preparing or setting apart of a person or thing for a holy use. This building, for example, has been sanctified. It has been set apart for holy use. A Christian should seek to be sanctified, to live their life for a holy purpose. When a person is sanctified, there are allowing their soul to be led by the Spirit of God and given victory over the desires of sin. At the same time this experience enables the believer to live a holy life and to manifest faith, love, and humility toward God and others. If you want to learn more about sanctification look up 1 Thessalonians 4). Sanctification, like salvation, was purchased for humanity by the blood of Christ. This does not mean, however, that one who is sanctified cannot sin. Everybody take a calm breath. This church, though sanctified has breakdowns. We are free moral agents and have the power to consciously reject the wooing of God's Spirit and override our better judgment if we choose. Therefore, there is a progressive aspect to sanctification too. There is a "pressing toward the goal," as Paul expressed it, toward greater perfection (see Philippians 3:14).

Contrasting the experience of being sanctified with that of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, note that Sanctification has as its primary purpose the edifying and perfecting of the believer himself, while the Holy Spirit baptism empowers the believer to work



toward the edifying and perfecting of others. There is also a sign that accompanies the baptism in the Holy Spirit which clearly distinguishes this experience from other experiences and blessings of God—the spiritual manifestation of speaking in other tongues. It is the same sign or method which the apostles recognized as being the sole and undisputed evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:4; 10:46).

## CONCLUSION

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience with God that is different from conversion, water baptism, and sanctification. It is an experience of power, joy, and fulfillment for every believer. Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?