

INSPIRED WORD

October 26, 2016

SCRIPTURE

Welcome back to session 5 of this Life in the Spirit course: "The Gift". Tonight we are going to be praying for the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We are going to be claiming in faith the promises of Jesus when He said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened. You who give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father give good things to those who ask Him." (Ref: **Matthew 7: 7 – 11**)

TEACHING / SCRIPTURE

So we are going to be asking Jesus to baptize us in the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was walking by, John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water, but He is going to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (Ref: **Matthew 3: 11**) So that is the promise. We see that promise again just before Jesus ascended, and just before Pentecost when Jesus told the apostles, "wait in the city until the power from on high comes down upon you and then you will be My witnesses. You will be baptized in the Holy Spirit." (Ref: **Acts 1: 4 – 8**) So we are going to claim that promise in faith tonight, and when we step out in faith, we have to do something – to actually believe that what God says to us is true. We believe that we are going to be baptized in the Holy Spirit because we are **asking** for it and our loving God hears us. Let me tell you something - those of you who have gone through these seminars before, there is always more and there is always deeper because the **Holy Spirit wants more of you!**

So tonight, different things are going to happen to different people. You will be prayed with by the prayer teams, and some of you, as you are prayed with, will experience the great love of God right then and there. Others will be touched and there will be tears – tears of joy, or tears of healing. Some of you will experience laughter; and some of you will experience a sense of peace. These are all spontaneous emotions. Others may rest in the Spirit, and by that I mean that God will come upon you in a powerful way and you just can't stand up anymore, so you will fall backwards. But do not worry because the members of the prayer teams will be ready to catch you as you fall and gently lay you down on the floor. This happens sometimes because God wants to have that person experience Him in a certain way, and the best way for that person is when they are resting in the Spirit. These things will not happen to everybody, but they will happen to some of you. If you see people laying around, don't worry about them as they are just resting in the Spirit. Some of you may not experience anything as you are being prayed with tonight, but in looking back to this night, you will see changes in your lives, that your lives have been totally changed in a good way. This has happened and people have testified to this experience. So it is not the feelings that we are looking for, but it is the expectancy and the assurance that when we ask, we are going to be baptized in the Holy Spirit because the Lord promised this to us. The Spirit may very well release charisms in you tonight – that is all part of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. You may be given the Gift of Prophecy, you may hear words going around in your mind

over and over again. If that happens to you, come up to the microphone and share the words you have been given. You may feel like spontaneously praying, so too come up and share what you have been given. He may give you a Word of Knowledge – that is knowing something about someone, such as ‘that person really needs to be prayed with.’ You didn’t know that about that person, but God knew that, so He gave you that knowledge. He may give you a scripture passage to share. He may also give you the Gift of Prayer Tongues. It is not unusual for people to say, “I want everything, I want the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit, but I don’t want that one. But we can’t say that to God! When we go to the store, we are not going to burst out in Tongues, because that gift is totally under our control. This is a beautiful gift because when you don’t know how to pray, the Spirit does and you are allowing Him to pray through you. With this gift, you speak in anything except in the English language. It is very simple, just open your mouth and start making sounds, any syllable, and in faith allow that to flow. This is a gift that we should all desire because it is a tremendous Gift of Intercessory Prayer, and also a gift of praise. So if you sense that God might be bubbling through you as you are being prayed over by the prayer teams, just allow those sounds to come out. If you specifically want the Gift of Prayer Tongues, then ask the prayer team to do that for you. The important thing is to yield in thanksgiving, and relax. Why? Because God loves you; let Him embrace you, and let Him bubble up inside of you, and let Him show you that you are His beloved son or daughter.

EXHORTATION / SCRIPTURE

In a few minutes we are going to renew our baptismal promises and I will lead you through that after I put on my Alb. We will come up, like we do at Holy Communion, and then put your hands in the Holy Water and really bless yourself with it. Don’t be afraid to spill water. After we do all of this, then I am going to lead you in the Prayer of Commitment, asking the Lord to baptize all of us present here in the Holy Spirit. Then I am going to bring out the Blessed Sacrament and place it on the altar. The eleven prayer team members will come up and kneel before the Lord for a minute, asking Him to baptize them afresh in the Holy Spirit. Then they will go to their designated places in the back of the sanctuary. After the teams are in place, I will ask the rest of you to come up to the Blessed Sacrament, several people at a time. Do you see the white cloth up there? That reminds us of the gospel story about the woman with the hemorrhage and she pressed her way through the crowd to touch the hem of Jesus. **(Ref: Matthew Chapter 9, Mark 5 and Luke 8)** It is a reminder to us when we go up and touch the hem of Jesus (the white cloth), we say, “Lord, in faith I ask You to baptize me this night afresh in Your Holy Spirit.” After that, just go down the side aisles and wait in line until a prayer team is open to pray with you. There are three people per prayer team and one of the team members will raise their hand when they are available to pray with you. They will ask you if they may lay their hands on you, and then they will pray that you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit afresh and anew. You say, “Yes!” to your Baptism in the Holy Spirit - it is saying “Yes” to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit. You are reaffirming those sacraments. After the prayer team prays with you, come back to your place here and do not leave. After I put the Blessed Sacrament away, I will have a few closing comments to make.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Father Erin Kochivar, our Associate Pastor here at Holy Apostles, came to give us a blessing. He began with scripture from **Ephesians**: “He Who descended is the same One Who ascended far above the all the heavens, so that He might fill all things. The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” **(Verses: 10 – 13)** Heavenly Father, we ask in a special way that we may receive Your gift that You wish to give us. As Your apostle Paul said, many gifts are given for different ministries in order to obtain the unity of the body of Christ. Help us to receive that gift and then to use that gift according to Your will, for the sake of Your ministry and for the building up of Your church. Heavenly Father, the Giver of all gifts, we look to You especially on this night. In a special way we pray for these gifts that they may be given to us and that they may be fruitful, that they may help us to grow as Your apostles into maturity. Amen.

(The Renewing of the Baptism Promises and our response is: “I do!”)

PRAYER

O Lord, we give You praise and we thank You for loving us so much. We ask You now to send forth Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptize all of us afresh in Your Holy Spirit, as we surrender our lives to You.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling us among Your holy people, to be sons and daughters of the Father. Set us on fire by the Spirit of Love which You pour forth upon us. We give You praise and we give You thanks. Amen.

DEACON CHUCK’S CLOSING COMMENTS

The first thing I want to say is this: Don’t judge yourself by the experiences of other people. We all have different experiences – some were slain in the Spirit, some cried, some experienced peace and some did not feel anything. But the thing that you have to remember is that we have asked in faith for God to baptize us in the Holy Spirit **and He always answers that prayer!** So you can be assured that that has happened to you! Now as for doubts and temptations, the only thing that Satan can do to you is to make you believe that nothing happened to you! If he can make you believe that nothing happened to you and that you were not baptized in the Holy Spirit, then he has won that victory, hasn’t he? Then you don’t continue, you don’t trust, and you don’t walk in life in the Spirit. All he has is lies! That is all that Satan can do. So we must stand against that and tell him to go away and leave you alone because you belong to the Lord. That is very important because these things can happen to you. The next thing to consider is that some of you may think that from now on you will be free of all problems – that is not true! But there will be a renewed power and joy so that you will be able to deal with all of these things a lot differently. You will know that the Spirit of God walks with you and in you to strengthen and guide you. Also be faithful to daily prayer and scripture and

your reflections that you have received earlier. It is very, very important to come back here again next week. Next week we will have the opportunity to share a little bit about what happened to us tonight in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and what might have happened to us during the course of the week. For all things happen in God's own time! When you share your experiences with others, share it from the stand point of humility.

SHARING

When I was prayed with for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, I felt like my chest was on fire.

SHARING

I really discovered joy when being prayed with by the prayer team.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61: 1 – 3: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on us, because the Lord has anointed us to preach good news to the poor. He has sent us to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 34: 1 – 3: I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His Name together.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25: 1: O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You and praise Your Name, for in perfect faithfulness You have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.

PRAYER

Lord, in Your holy Presence, we have everything. In Your holy Presence, there is no want. In Your holy Presence surrounded by Your love, we are safe.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 33 – 35, 39 - 40: The Presentation in the Temple: The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about Jesus; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon Him.

PRAYER

Lord, it is You Who transforms us; it is You Who makes us holy. It is You Who pours into our hearts Your fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, meekness and gentleness – all of those things that are necessary for us to shine forth the holy Presence of Jesus. Lord, this evening many were prayed with for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, so we pray for that holiness, that transformation that only You can bring about in each one of them. O Lord, make us holy as we say “Yes” to You. Yes, yes, have Your way in us, lead and guide us, make known to us what we should do. Lord, tell me who I should talk to this day; tell me where I should go, tell me who I should minister to, tell me to whom I need to speak the truth, tell me to whom I need to show compassion. O Lord, make me holy, make us holy!

(Praying over those present who are in need prayers.)