New Testament Baptism and the Holy Spirit 3
Class 8
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As we discussed last week, the Holy Spirit indwells Christians who have obeyed the gospel command to be baptized and who seek to live godly lives, and that He bears witness with our spirits that we are God's children through the sealing that we have from Him according to the grace of God. But there are a few more aspects of what the Holy Spirit does for us that we have not touched on yet and we will deal with those today as well as other thoughts and questions.

One point that many probably do not contemplate very much today is, "why do we have the Holy Spirit?" Last week we discussed that it was necessary from God's viewpoint, but most would ask, "Why?" The answer is this: it is necessary that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling with us, because without Him we are dead to God, but with Him and through Him we are made alive to God once more. **Ephesians 2:4-6** tells us that the world is dead in its trespasses and sins, but that we are made alive together with Christ when we are baptized into Christ and receive God's grace, and where that scripture refers to God having "**raised us up**", the reference is clearly made to New Testament baptism. There is no other "raising up" mentioned in all the scripture other than baptism… where we are raised up from a watery grave where we have been buried "into Christ"… that is the reference here. A study of **Romans 6:3-4** clearly demonstrates this. We are made alive again in baptism, and **Romans 8:11** tells us that just as the Holy Spirit raised Christ up from the dead so we too are raised up and made alive through the gift of the Holy Spirit upon obedience to that command.

Romans 8:1-2 goes on to tell us that we must walk according to the Spirit (i.e. the truth which is the agency the Spirit uses to work on us), and that the Spirit makes us free us free from sin and death… so without Him and without obedience to the truth that He has revealed to us in scripture, we are not made free from bondage to sin and death. **Romans 8:9** tells us that if we do not have the Spirit (and we have clearly established how to receive him from **Acts 2:38**), that we are not in God's and Christ's possession. If you are not in the possession of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, that is the greatest form of "death" imaginable.

We could not be the spiritual temples for God that we are as Christians without the spiritual cleansing of baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In **1 Peter 2:4-6** we are told this and we are called "**living stones**"… this idea is also expressed **Ephesians 2:19-22**. We see from **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** that our bodies are not ours any longer, as we have been bought by the blood of Christ, and that we are now a temple for the Holy Spirit. This idea lines up with exactly what we have learned in our past two lessons about the spiritual covenant we live under now vs. the physical nature of the Old Covenant made with the physical nation of Israel. We are now the spiritual Israel and we are spiritual children of Abraham (**Galatians 3:7-9**, and **26-29**, and **6:16**). We do not worship in a physical temple… **<u>we are the temple</u>**, a dwelling place for God. Just as

God dwelled with Israel through the tabernacle in the wilderness and His glory filled it (**Exodus 40:34-35**), and just God dwelled with Israel through temple in Jerusalem and His glory filled it (**2 Chronicles 7:1-3**), so He dwells with us now through the Holy Spirit and the glory of God and His Christ fill us when we are obedient and faithful to Him.

As we touched on a moment ago, we are made alive through the act of baptism. We in fact are regenerated and given a renewal that comes through the dwelling of the Holy Spirit with us as we are told from **Titus 3:4-6**. The word "**regenerate**", according to the American Heritage College Dictionary, means, "**to form, construct or create anew, especially in an improved state**". This what the Holy Spirit's presence does for us…He creates anew… we become the new creations "in Christ" that God has always intended for mankind to be.

We are made to be spiritually awakened to God and Christ through obedience and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit vs. asleep to the spiritual realities all around, as the rest of the world is… they are dead (asleep) in their sins. In **Ephesians 5:14** we are told to wake up to the light of Christ, and **Ephesians 4:17-18**, tells us that we are not to have our "**understanding darkened**". **1 Thessalonians 5:4-8** probably describes this new state of spiritual wakefulness best, especially **verse 6** which says, "**Therefore let us not sleep, as others do…**" We are to be awake and sober in our new state and it is the Holy Spirit that provides this illumination through His indwelling and the truth He has provided in the scriptures.

All of these things the Holy Spirit provides for us and that is why His presence is necessary for us, not to mention that fact that through His presence with us we are strengthened (**Ephesians 3:16**) for our lives in this world of sin. Let us not forget that we can grieve the Holy Spirit by our sinful behavior as we know from **Ephesians 4:30**, and that we can quench the Holy Spirit by neglect of the word as we are told in **1 Thessalonians 5:14**. We must not ever let ourselves come to that, because through the grieving and quenching that is talked about here in the scriptures, one can be abandoned by the Holy Spirit and be completely bereft of salvation, separated from God once again… David tells us that in **Psalms 51:11**. Through the Holy Spirit, God and Christ dwell with us and we are in Their presence continually through the communion they share in the Godhead, without the indwelling Holy Spirit we are lost.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit…

Let us now move on to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which as we talked about before, is different from the gift of the Holy Spirit mentioned in **Acts 2:38** which all Christians receive upon being baptized. These are extraordinary gifts and there are nine of them. They are listed in **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** in detail. These gifts were given by the laying on of the Apostles hands mostly, as evinced by the example of Peter and John in **Acts 8:15-19** with Simon the Sorcerer, and Paul on the road to Ephesus in **Acts 19:5-6**. These gifts were given to baptized believers in the early church in order to establish the church as we see from **Romans 1:11**. They were not to continue as we are told by Paul in **Ephesians 4:13-14**, because they served a purpose that was only valid until the giving of the completed New Testament to the church. The church is older than the New

Testament, and it was some number of years after the establishment of the church on the day of Pentecost before the first line of the New Testament was written. Before it was printed down, and given to all to read, these gifts were necessary. When it was completed as a record they were not needed any more. At that point the ability to perform these various miracles died out as the Apostles and those they laid hands on passed away from the earth. No one today has these gifts, and if they say they do they are misinformed at best. The word has been confirmed (**Hebrews 2:1-4**)… we need nothing else.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit…
We move on now to a topic that is greatly misunderstood by many and that is baptism of the Holy Spirit. We need to realize that this is a figurative term, which is meant to signify being overcome or overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit and is accompanied by miraculous signs. It has nothing to do with our personal salvation in Christ. Baptism in water is a command for the remission of sins as given in **Acts 2:38**… no one was ever commanded to be baptized of the Holy Spirit, and that is the major difference between the two types.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred only twice in the Scriptures, and it is prophesied in the book of **Joel** at **2:28-32**. This prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost in **Acts** chapter **2:2-4** at the establishment of the church or kingdom, and again in **Acts 10:44-46** in the household of Cornelius the Gentile. In both cases it was administered by Christ, as we see from **John 1:33,** to make a specific point, and to aid in the furtherance of the gospel message. There was no other reason for it. The point made in **Acts 2** was to show that God was with the apostles as they began to preach the gospel and establish the institution of the church, and the point made in **Acts 10** was to show Peter and the other Jewish brethren that God had accepted the Gentiles. There is no record of this occurring after the household of Cornelius experienced it.

The prophecy of **Joel 2**, that God would pour out his Spirit "**upon all flesh**" has been fulfilled in the pouring out that was given to the Jews at Pentecost and to the Gentiles in Cornelius' house. Jews and Gentiles comprise "**all flesh**", because if you were not a Jew then you were a Gentile, and so as of then everyone was and has been ever since covered by these two occurrences. Holy Spirit baptism is now an accomplished fact, and is no longer needed, so it does not occur any more.

Our special relationship with the Holy Spirit…
As the last part of our study on the Holy Spirit, we want to look at the special relationship the church has with Him. There are two abiding monuments to the work of the Holy Spirit in His dispensation, the church and the Bible. We have talked a lot about how the Spirit works through the word of God to convict people of their position in relation to God, but we have not touched on the co-operant and concurrent work performed between the Holy Spirit and the church. Just as one cannot have faith without the hearing of the word of God (**Romans 10:17**), we know that the church works with the Spirit to spread the word, and **Revelation 22:17** paints a beautiful picture of this… calling the church the bride.

The Holy Spirit guided in the establishment of the church in the beginning, He filled it with His presence and brought gifts with His advent on the day of Pentecost, and He has written letters of instruction and guidance to it. The Holy Spirit bears relation to the church as a creative force, resident in it, active and operative through it. Just as the Holy Spirit is called the "**Spirit of truth**" in **John 16:13**, so we are told that the church is "**the pillar and ground of the truth**" in **1 Timothy 3:15**. Just as we are told in **John 16:12-15** that the Holy Spirit has revealed "**all things**" to us, so we are told in **Ephesians 3:10-11** that the church makes known "**the manifold** (meaning "many sided") **wisdom of God according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**". Do you see the cooperation here, the coinciding missions… the special relationship? Just as Christ is the authority ***over*** the church (**Colossians 1:18**), so the Holy Spirit is the authority ***within*** the church.

The church did not have it's existence until the Holy Spirit came and gave it life. His coming is promised by Christ in **Luke 24:49** and is fulfilled in **Acts 2**. The Holy Spirit told the apostles what to say in order to establish the church on the day of Pentecost, and He helped Peter to know what to say in **Acts 2** in order to use the keys to the kingdom that he had been promised in **Matthew 16:19**. Peter, on that day, spoke as the Holy Spirit gave him utterance in order to open the doors to the church for the salvation of mankind.

Just as Christ needed a physical body to live in, in order to come into the world and accomplish His mission for the Father so that we might be saved from destruction, so the Holy Spirit needs a body to live in, in order to accomplish His work for the salvation of the world. The body that He does this through is the body of Christ… the church (**Colossians 1:24**)…as Christians, we are His temple (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17**).

The Lord's church does indeed have a special relationship with the Holy Spirit much more than just His indwelling of us. His presence with us is a comfort to us and a help to us. We know from scripture many things about these aspects of our relationship with the Holy Spirit: He seals us (**Ephesians 1:13** and **4:30**), He introduces us to the Father (**Ephesians 2:18**), He gives us knowledge (**Ephesians 3:5**), He strengthens us (**Ephesians 3:16**), He is the bond of our union with one another(**Ephesians 4:3**), He arms us with the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God (**Ephesians 6:17**), and He inspires our prayers (**Ephesians 6:18**).

To sum it all up, the Holy Spirit is vitally connected with the church, as our own spirits are vitally connected with our bodies. Truly the Holy Spirit's presence with us is a necessary and wonderful thing that God had bestowed upon us… and all of the blessings He brings begin with our following the New Testament command to be baptized in order to receive Him.