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a *Grace Notes* course

# The Acts of the Apostles

## Section I: Acts 1 to 7

an expositional study

by Warren Doud

### Lesson 2: **Acts 1:5-8**

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Acts, Section I, Chapters 1 to 7  
Lesson 2, Acts 1:5-8

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**INTRODUCTION**

Begin each study session with prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who makes spiritual things discernable to Christians, so it is essential to be in fellowship with the Lord during Bible study.

**Instructions**

1. Study the lesson by reading the passage in ACTS, studying the notes, and studying the other passages of the Bible which are cited. It is a good idea to read the whole book of Acts regularly, perhaps at least once a month. This will give you a good overall view of the events in ACTS.
  2. Study the topics in the same way, paying close attention to all of the Bible verses which are mentioned.
  3. Review all of the notes in the ACTS study and the topics
  4. Go to the Quiz page and follow the instructions to complete all the questions on the quiz. The quiz is “open book”. You may refer to all the notes and to the Bible when you take the test. But you should not get help from another person.
  5. When you have completed the Quiz, be sure to SAVE the file.
  6. Return the completed Quiz to Grace Notes, either by e-mail or regular mail. There are instructions below in the Quiz section.
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**Acts 1:5-8****Acts 1:5**

**For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.**

Seven types of baptism in the Bible.

**Topic: Baptism**

“you shall be baptized”

This is the future, passive, indicative of BAPTIDZW.

Future => this had never occurred before. It will occur on the day of Pentecost, in ten days.

Passive => the subject (you). Indicates the subject receives the action. The question here is: if a person receives the action of the baptism, who carries out the action? Who does the baptizing?

“with the Holy Spirit” – might suggest that the Holy Spirit is the medium in which a person is immersed.

But, the grammar is EN plus PNEUMATI, the instrumental case of PNEUMOS. Therefore, it is the Holy Spirit who carries out the baptism. And we see this in ...

**1 Cor. 12:13, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”**

“not many days hence” – ten days later, on the day of Pentecost.

After Pentecost – after the beginning of the Church Age – every Christian has been placed in Union with Christ by the Holy Spirit, at the moment of salvation. The very second you placed your faith in Christ, you received a tremendous Salvation Package. You received a great number of unique and permanent blessings. Did you feel anything when you accepted Christ? A bump? A warm glow? Nevertheless ...

**TOPIC: Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

Definition: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that particular work of the Holy Spirit that takes the new believer and places him in union with Jesus Christ.

- 1 The baptism of the HS did not occur in Old Testament times or during the life of Christ. It occurred for the first time on the day of Pentecost.
- 2 It was prophesied by John the Baptist, Matt. 3:11, “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire...”
- 3 The mechanics of the baptism are described in 1 Cor. 12:13, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”
- 4 The BHS unifies all believers, Eph. 4:5, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism” While people are diverse in race, culture, personality, geography.

**Gal. 3:26-28, “For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the great emancipator: of slaves, of women, and especially of those bound up in religion.

This is a key doctrine. It supports many other concepts.

It is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit that makes a person a new creature.

**2 Cor. 5:17, “If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature.”**

Being a new creature is not a product of how you have changed your life or cleaned up your act. You are a new creature the moment you are saved, before you even have a chance to turn over a new leaf.

Life changes are based on consistency in walking in fellowship, being occupied with Christ, and by the ministry of the Holy Spirit over time, as He teaches and edifies.

**Acts 1:6**

**When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

They were probably assembled at the Mt. of Olives, and they were probably called there by the Lord. We know that this conversation ended with the Ascension.

How many were out there, and how many saw the Ascension? Not known.

There is every indication that they have learned very little to this point, in spite of all the teaching. Christ is teaching Church Age doctrine; they are ignoring that and thinking about details of life, the physical kingdom of Israel.

They're Jews, and the Jews are hoping that the Romans will be destroyed. They are also hoping that the Jewish political structure itself will go away.

But none of that is going to happen! What actually will happen will surprise them and shock them! Because God's intention is that the Gospel go to the Gentiles! As we shall see, even Pentecost was not enough to change their focus. Pentecost was for Jews; those who were saved (the 3000) were Jews, pilgrims from all parts of the Mediterranean world.

Notice how dramatic an event was required to get the Apostles started in thinking about the Gentiles.

READ Acts 10:1-48.

**Acts 1:7**

**And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in his own power.**

There seem to be some questions implied by the Lord's answer:

Why do you want the kingdom? Desire for revenge against the Romans or Jewish leaders? Or desire to be like the Romans?

Do they have the desire for a king that Samuel faced?

Desire for status? Remember some of the apostles had already been jockeying for position at the Lord's right hand.

What benefits are you seeking? And what's your hurry.

People are always eager to fix dates to the events which are prophesied, whether it's regarding the political Messianic kingdom here, or the Second Coming of Christ, in our day.

The Lord's emphasis is on the spiritual kingdom; the work of God in the heart. This is a gentle hint to people today about limiting one's curiosity about things which the Father, in His sovereignty, keeps to Himself.

The disciples had more the enough teaching on the subject during Christ's ministry.

**Luke 17:20,21, "And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God comes not with observation. Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or Lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."**

The desire for a sign is categorized as springing from evil. The Lord called the scribes and Pharisees an "evil and adulterous generation" for seeking a sign.

READ Matt. 12:38-41

But they have all the valid signs that they need. The Lord Jesus Christ, His miracles, His death, burial, and resurrection, and in just a few moments, His ascension and the appearance of the angels.

The true sign is validated for those who have positive volition.

READ John 2:18-22

READ 1 Cor. 1:17-25.

Jesus Christ crucified is the answer to every type of "sign seeking." It's a "stumbling block" to Jews because of legalism; it is "foolishness" to Gentiles because of the pride of intellect.

**Acts 1:8**

**But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and you shall**

**be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Acts 1:8 is an outline for the rest of Acts.

Chap. 1-7, Jerusalem and Judea

Chap. 8 – Samaria (Philip)

Chap. 9-28, the rest of the Mediterranean world, and finally Rome.

Note: Acts 1:8 is not a command. It is a promise!

Notice how they accomplished their evangelism!

READ Acts 2:40-47

### TOPIC: Holy Spirit, Filling

Spirituality, or the filling of the Holy Spirit, links salvation to Christian maturity. To move from salvation to maturity requires the filling of the Holy Spirit and the consistent intake of Bible truth.

We are always indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

We are not always filled with the Holy Spirit.

The filling of the Holy Spirit means God the Holy Spirit controls the soul; and He does not control when we sin (grieve Him) or perform human good or evil (quench Him).

When we confess our sins (1 John 1:9), God forgives the sins and “cleanses” us; and the Holy Spirit is in control again and able to carryout His work.

### TOPIC: Confession of Sin

The following passages of Scripture describe various synonyms for being filled with the Holy Spirit. Note that these are commands and require a Christian to have a positive mental attitude and to take positive action.

Walking in the Spirit: Gal 5:16-26

Walking in the light: 1 John 1:6-10

Imitating Christ: Eph. 5:1-18

Partakers of the divine nature: 2 Pet 1:1-4

**Prov. 1:22, 23, “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? And the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold,**

**I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.”**

**Eph 4:30, "Stop grieving the Holy Spirit, the God by whom you have been sealed for the day of redemption."**

**1 Thess. 5:19, "Do not quench the Spirit."**

The carnal believer is in the same condition as the unbeliever, except for Divine Discipline!

The carnal believer is always miserable and doesn't know why.

### TOPIC: Volitional Responsibility

**The Law of Volitional Responsibility:** People who choose for God are blessed; those who choose against Him suffer.

The Law of Volitional responsibility is well documented by Scripture.

**Job 4:8-9, "As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. At the breath of God they are destroyed; at the blast of his anger they perish.**

**Prov 11:18, "The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.**

1. The deceptive wages are the result of bad decisions.

2. The deceptive wages shortchange the work of sin, making sin never worth it.

**Prov 22:8, "He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.**

**Hosea 8:7, ""They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up.**

**Hosea 10:12, "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailling love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.**

**2 Cor 9:6, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.**

**Gal 6:7-8, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.**

**James 3:18, "Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.**

The law of volitional responsibility is a built in function of divine discipline (see below). It is a law as universal as gravity, and no less impressive in its effects.

The law of volitional responsibility can be summed up in the phrase, "You will reap what you sow." This means that the seeds that you plant in bad decisions will grow up to cause suffering in your life.

In the law of volitional responsibility, the suffering is always appropriate to the original bad decision.

1. If the decision is in the realm of finance, then you will suffer financially.
2. If the decision is in the realm of romance, then you will suffer romantically.
3. If the decision is in the realm of social life, then you will suffer socially.
4. If the decision is in the realm of your chosen profession, then you will suffer professionally.

In the law of volitional responsibility, bad decisions, like crime, never pay. You never 'get away' with a bad decision. You never slip a fast one by God, even on a small scale.

In the law of volitional responsibility, good decisions never go unnoticed by the omnipresence of God.

What is the result of failing to understand these things and apply them? What is the result of failing to make your children understand them?

## Baptism

### INTRODUCTION

The word "baptize" (from the Greek baptidzo) means "to identify" or "to be made one with". In early Greek, the word had both religious and secular meanings. In general, it refers to the act of

identifying one thing with another thing in such a way that its nature or character is changed, or it represents the idea that a real change has already taken place.

As a reference to identification, "baptize" means to place a person (or thing) into a new environment, or into union with some one or something else, so as to alter his (its) condition or relationship to the previous environment.

There are seven types of baptism mentioned in the Bible. Four of these are real baptisms and three are ritual baptisms.

#### Real Baptisms

- The Baptism of Moses
- The Baptism of the Cross (or Cup)
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- The Baptism of Fire

#### Ritual Baptisms

- The Baptism of John
- The Baptism of Jesus
- The Baptism of the Christian Believer

These seven baptisms are described in the sections below.

### REAL BAPTISMS

A baptism is called "real" if it involves actually identifying a person with something or someone.

#### THE BAPTISM OF MOSES

The baptism of Moses was a double identification, the children of Israel are identified both with Moses and with the cloud (Jesus Christ) as they passed through the Red Sea. There was no water involved (remember, they went through the sea on dry land when the waters were parted). 1 Cor. 10:1,2.

#### THE BAPTISM OF THE CROSS (OR CUP)

Jesus Christ "drank" the Cup filled with our sins. Another way of expressing it is that all the sins of the world were put into one cup and poured out on Christ while He was on the Cross. God the Father judged our sins while they were on Christ. Christ was identified with our sin and He bore our sins on the cross. He was made sin for us. 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24.

In Matt. 20:22 Jesus speaks of the cup he is to drink as he makes a reply to the mother of Zebedee's children. In Matt. 26:39, He prays to the Father to "let this cup pass from me".

Nevertheless, He determined to drink from the cup, as seen in John 18:11, "the cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink from it?"

### **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a real baptism. When a person accepts Christ as Savior, he is placed into the body of Christ. He is identified as a believer. The mechanics are given in 1 Cor. 12:13.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit did not occur in Old Testament times. The first occurrence was on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit placed the new believers into the body of Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the basis for Positional Truth. Believers are placed "in Christ", and in this position have access to many kinds of privileges and blessings. Ephesians 1 has a good description of what it means to have "all blessings in heavenly places in Him."

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was prophesied by John the Baptist, Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16. And it was prophesied by Jesus Christ, John 14:16,17; Acts 1:5.

The implications of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, for all believers in the family of God, are given in Gal. 3:26-28.

The principle of retroactive identification with Christ is brought out in Rom. 6:3,4 and Col. 2:12.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not an experience. It is not accompanied by speaking in tongues or any other kind of feeling or behavior. The things that happen to believers at the moment of salvation are accomplished by the Holy Spirit, not by us, and these things are not experiences.

### **THE BAPTISM OF FIRE**

There is a judgment coming at the 2nd Coming of Christ when all nonbelievers are taken from the earth. They will join the rest of the unbelievers in Torments (Sheol-Hades-Hell) to wait for the Last Judgment (The Great White Throne Judgment of Rev. 20) at the end of the Millennium. This removal of unbelievers for judgment is the baptism of fire.

Fire is a symbol for judgment all throughout the Bible. Examples are the fire which burned the sacrifice on the Hebrew altar, and the fire from God which burned the watered down sacrifices of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.

The doctrine of the baptism of fire is stated in Matt. 3:11,12; Luke 3:16,17; and 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

The Lord Jesus taught several parables regarding the end times when believers and unbelievers will be separated. The believers are to go into the millennium, the unbelievers are "cast off" into fire. These parables are analogies to the baptism of fire.

Wheat and tares - Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.

Good and bad fish - Matt. 13:47-50.

The wise and foolish virgins - Matt. 25:1-13

The sheep and the goats - Matt. 25:31-46

### **RITUAL BAPTISMS**

A baptism is called a ritual baptism, or a ceremonial baptism, when water is used as a symbol for something else. It is a representative identification. The individual is placed in the water, which means, symbolically, that he is identified with that which the water represents.

### **THE BAPTISM OF JOHN - MATT. 3:6-11.**

Here the water is symbolic of the Kingdom of God which John was preaching. When a person was baptized by John, he was testifying to his faith in the Messiah and his identification with Christ's kingdom. The new believer was "identified" with the water, but the water represented a spiritual identification.

The phrase "Kingdom of God" is a general term referring to all believers from the time of Adam until the end of the Millennium. At the time of John the Baptist, all believers were pre-Church Age Christians, although many lived on into the Church Age (which began at the Day of Pentecost).

### **THE BAPTISM OF JESUS**

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist, the water was symbolic of God's will in salvation, namely that Jesus would go to the Cross.

## Christians of the Early Church

This is a description of the Christians of the early church, as found in a letter called the "Epistle to Diognetus", by an unknown author of the 2nd Century.

"The Christians are not distinguished from other men by country, by language, nor by civil institutions. For they neither dwell in cities by themselves, nor use a peculiar tongue, nor lead a singular mode of life. They dwell in the Grecian or barbarian cities, as the case may be; they follow the usage of the country in dress, food, and the other affairs of life. Yet they present a wonderful and confessedly paradoxical conduct. They dwell in their own native lands, but as strangers.

"They take part in all things, as citizens; and they suffer all things, as foreigners. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every native land is a foreign. They marry, like all others; they have children; but they do not cast away their offspring. They have the table in common, but not wives. They are in the flesh, but do not live after the flesh. They live upon the earth but are citizens of heaven. They obey the existing laws, and excel the laws by their lives.

"They love all, and are persecuted by all. They are unknown, and yet they are condemned. They are killed and are made alive. They are poor and make many rich. They lack all things, and in all things abound. They are reproached, and glory in their reproaches. They are calumniated, and are justified. They are cursed, and they bless. They receive scorn, and they give honor. They do good, and are punished as evil-doers. When punished, they rejoice, as being made alive. By the Jews they are attacked as aliens, and by the Greeks persecuted; and the cause of the enmity their enemies cannot tell.

"In short, what the soul is in the body, the Christians are in the world. The soul is diffused through all the members of the body, and the Christians are spread through the cities of the world. The soul dwells in the body, but it is not of the body; so the Christians dwell in the world, but are not of the world. The soul, invisible, keeps watch in the visible body; so also the Christians are seen to live in the world, but their piety is invisible.

The flesh hates and wars against the soul, suffering no wrong from it, but because it resists fleshly pleasures; and the world hates the Christians with no reason, but that they resist its pleasures. The soul loves the flesh and members, by which it is hated; so the Christians love their haters. The soul is enclosed in the body, but holds the body together; so the Christians are detained in the world as in a prison; but they contain the world. Immortal, the soul dwells in the mortal body; so the Christians dwell in the corruptible, but look for incorruption in heaven. The soul is the better for restriction in food and drink; and the Christians increase, though daily punished. This lot God has assigned to the Christians in the world; and it cannot be taken from them.

## The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

### INTRODUCTION.

**The baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of seven salvation ministries by God the Holy Spirit.**

1. Efficacious Grace
2. Regeneration
3. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
4. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
5. The Filling of the Holy Spirit
6. The Sealing of the Holy Spirit
7. Spiritual Gifts

You can find a full description of the salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit in the topic "Holy Spirit, Salvation Ministries."

**The baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of seven Bible baptisms.**

1. The Baptism of Moses
2. The Baptism of the Cup, or the Baptism of the Cross
3. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
4. The Baptism of Fire
5. The Baptism of John
6. The Baptism of Jesus.
7. Christian Baptism, the water baptism of the believer

These topics are covered in the topic "Baptism."

**DEFINITION.**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a real baptism, an actual identification takes place. It is one of the seven ministries of the God the Holy Spirit at salvation, in which God the Holy Spirit, at the moment a person believes in Christ, enters the new believer into union with Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the means of forming the royal family of God during the Church Age. It is a function of the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit at salvation. By being entered into union with Christ, we are adopted as royal family of God. We are a new spiritual species.

This union with Christ is called positional sanctification or the sanctification of the body, Eph 5:25-27.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not an emotional experience, 1 Cor 12:13.

It is a function of the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit putting every believer into union with Christ, making him a new spiritual species.

There is only one baptism that unifies the royal family of God.

**1 Cor 12:13**, "For by means of one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body; whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves of free, all were made to drink into one Spirit."

**Eph 4:5**, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

**Rom 6:3-5**, "Do you not know that all of us have been baptized into Jesus Christ? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into His death, in order that as Christ was raised again from the dead to the glory of the Father, we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death [and we have], and not only this [retroactive positional truth], we shall also be united in the likeness of His resurrection."

The newness of life refers to our being a new spiritual species and royal family of God. So Rom 6:3-5 teaches identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

The many references to positional sanctification, or the baptism of the Holy Spirit are often found in the preposition phrase EN + the locative of CHRISTOS, translated "in Christ." Almost

everywhere this phrase is found, it is reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and resulting union with Christ.

**1 Cor 15:22**, "In Adam all die; so also in Christ shall all be made alive." Cf. Rom 8:1.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is related to the Church Age only. This ministry of the Holy Spirit is not found in the Old Testament, and there are no eschatological references to it beyond the Church Age.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not the function of any spiritual gift.

Because the baptism of the Holy Spirit is universally provided for all Church Age believers, it is not in any sense experiential. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an act of the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit. Any time God uses His divine power, whether it is the omnipotence of God the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit, it excludes any form of experiential cooperation. That's grace!

The baptism of the Holy Spirit could not occur until there was the strategic victory of Jesus Christ in the angelic conflict. The Levitical priesthood was inadequate for the Church Age. Now there was the need for a universal priesthood, since every believer was now a target of Satan.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred first in Jerusalem and included the gift of tongues to warn the Jews of the coming of the fifth cycle of discipline. Acts 2.

Union with Christ is a permanent identification which distinguishes Christianity from religion. In religion, man by man's efforts seeks to gain the approbation of God, a Satanic function. In Christianity, the believer through union with Christ has a permanent relationship with God.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit forms the body of Christ, He being the head. Our Lord's gift to His body is found in Rom 12; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4.

**THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES THE ROYAL FAMILY OF GOD.**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the means of providing a royal family for our Lord's third royal title. The royal family of God (universal Church, or body of Christ) is formed at the moment of salvation through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Equal privilege for all Church Age believers is based on the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, a doctrine which involves the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, equal privilege in the royal family of God is related to two doctrinal facts:

- a. The omnipotence of the Holy Spirit creates a royal family of God, the body of Christ, as an organism, not as an institution.
- b. Simultaneously, from the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit creates a new spiritual species for spiritual living (not for psychological living) in the devil's world. Every Church Age believer is a part of this unique spiritual species.

Furthermore, the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit also provides equal opportunity for the fulfillment of the 1 plan of God through walking in fellowship under the control of the Holy Spirit.

The teaching ministry of the Spirit in a believer who is walking in fellowship is the fulfilling power of the Christian way of life. The Holy Spirit is a teacher, as in Jn 14:26, 16:12-14; 1 Cor 2:9-16; 1 Jn 2:27.

God the Holy Spirit is the One who teaches us Bible truth, which gives us the capacity for the new spiritual life provided by Him at salvation with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

#### **THE ANALOGY OF THE HEAD AND THE BODY.**

The body of Christ is the family of God. The head is incomplete without the body. The humanity of Christ is incomplete without a royal family for Him.

This analogy teaches that the Church cannot be a living organism without union with Christ. The fulfillment of the head completing the body and the body completing the head is found in the prophecy given by our Lord in Jn 14:20, "you in Me and I in you." "You in Me" refers to Church Age believers in union with Christ from the baptism of the Holy Spirit resulting in positional sanctification. "I in you" refers to the indwelling of Jesus Christ, a vital union between the head and the body.

All Church Age believers are formed into one body and one royal family, Eph 2:16, 4:4-5, 5:30-32; Col 1:24, 2:19

The Holy Spirit is the agent in the formation of the body of Christ, the Church universal, the royal family of God. This is done by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

God the Father appointed Jesus Christ as the head of the body as a part of His third royal title. Synonyms for the royal family of God are:

- a. The Body of Christ
- b. The Church
- c. The Bride of Christ.

#### **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT.**

- It is not an experience, and it is not related to human feeling.
- It is not progressive. Therefore, it cannot be improved in either time or eternity. Our union with Christ is perfect from salvation.
- It is not related to any human merit or ability. There is nothing you can do to have the baptism of the Spirit.
- It is obtained in full at the moment of salvation. It is not a post-salvation experience. It is not a "second blessing." Union with Christ is a completed ministry by the Holy Spirit. Hence, it cannot be reversed by any human failure.
- It is eternal and unchangeable in nature. It cannot be canceled or changed by God or man. It is a part of your eternal security. No renunciation; no sin, human good, or evil; no moral or immoral degeneracy can cancel this ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is known and understood only through perception of the mystery doctrine of the Church Age. Therefore, it cannot be applied in a state of ignorance. It is invisible, not subject to empiricism; it is subject to cognition of Bible doctrine only.

**THE MECHANICS OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**Gal 3:26-28**, "For all of you are the sons of God [royal family] through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you were baptized into Christ, and you have put on [clothed yourselves] with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female."

There are no racial distinctions or racial prejudices in the royal family of God.

There were many slaves in the Roman Empire.

Paul told slaves not to seek their freedom.

"Neither slave nor free" means there are no social distinctions in the royal family of God.

Both male and female are equally in union with Christ and belong to the royal family. In a Christian marriage, you are not marrying someone who is beneath you.

Since the baptism of the Spirit is obtained in full at the moment of salvation, it cannot be reversed by any human failure.

The baptism of the Spirit is provided for all believers at the moment of salvation. Therefore it is a unifying factor, in that it is the means of forming the royal family of God.

The universality of the baptism of the Spirit precludes the possibility of it ever being experiential. It does not distinguish one believer from another; it does not make one believer superior or inferior to another.

**1 Cor 12:13** is considered to be the key passage on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. "By means of one Spirit [omnipotence of the Spirit], we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free. Furthermore, all were caused to drink by one Spirit."

In union with Christ, all human distinctions are removed by the formation of the royal family of God. Neither race nor status in life is an issue. No racial, social or economic distinctions are made.

Drinking, like eating, is an illustration of the non-meritorious character of faith as the only means of salvation. All kinds of people can swallow. The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment of personal faith in Christ.

The last phrase is the fulfillment of our Lord's invitation, given in Jn 7:37-39, when Christ prophesied that we would all drink of the Holy Spirit by our non-meritorious faith. "Now on the last day of the great feast, Jesus stood up and shouted, saying, 'If any person is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, "Streams of living water will flow from within him.'" Now this He communicated concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were about to receive. For the Spirit was not yet given, because Christ was not yet glorified."

John 7: 38 teaches that the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs when we believe in Jesus Christ at the point of our salvation. "Streams of living water will flow from within him" is a prophecy of the filling of the Spirit, i.e., residence, function, momentum inside the divine dynasphere during the Church Age only.

**THE PROPHECY OF THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT.**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was never mentioned in the Old Testament because it is a part of the mystery doctrine for the Church Age.

But the baptism of the Spirit was prophesied by the Lord Jesus Christ before the Church Age, in the Upper Room Discourse.

**Jn 14:20**, "On that day [Pentecost] you shall know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you."

"I am in My Father" is the identity of divine essence indicating that Jesus Christ is eternal God, coequal with God the Father.

"You in Me" is the prophecy of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and resultant positional sanctification, being in union with Christ.

"I in you" refers to the indwelling of Jesus Christ.

Just before His ascension, our Lord said to the disciples in Acts 1:5, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now [ten days]."

This prophecy was fulfilled ten days after our Lord uttered it in Acts 1:5.

### THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT BEGINS THE CHURCH AGE.

The prophecies about the baptism of the Holy Spirit were fulfilled on the day the Church Age began, around 32 A. D. Jesus prophesied the Church Age as future,

**Mt 16:18.** "Jesus said, 'I say to you [Peter] that you are PETROS [little stone] and on this PETRA [giant rock, Jesus Christ] I will build My church; and the gates of hell will not overcome it.'"

The future active indicative of OIKODOMEO, translated "will build" is important, for it indicates that no Church had existed up until that time, and no Church would exist until after the resurrection and ascension of Christ. God the Father will actually do the building, but it will be built on Jesus Christ, the Rock.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Baptism of the Spirit took all the believers present and entered them into union with Christ. At the same time, God the Son gave the first spiritual gifts. One of the first gifts to be exercised was the gift of tongues, simply because in Jerusalem during the Feast of Pentecost were thousands of Jews who spoke many different languages.

According to Isa 28, the gift of tongues was used as a last warning to Israel that they were going out as a client nation to God.

Though not mentioned in Acts 2, we know the baptism of the Spirit occurred on the Day of Pentecost because of Peter's retrospection in Acts 11. At the Gentile Pentecost, Acts 11:15-17, Peter recognized that what happened to them on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem (Acts 2) was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Acts 1:5. In retrospective exposition, Peter said, "And as I [Peter] began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as He did on us at the beginning [Pentecost, Acts 2:3]. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say [Acts 1:5 is the one recorded example], 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' Therefore, if God gave to them [Gentiles] the same gift as to us [Jews], when they had believed in the Lord Jesus, who was I that I should stand in God's way?'"

"The Holy Spirit fell on them" refers to an experience Peter had in Caesarea. Gentiles came to his place in Joppa and asked him to come to Caesarea, which he did. As Peter began to speak on that occasion, the Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit as did the Jews on the Day of Pentecost.

Peter recognized the Gentiles were a part of the body of Christ, for they had their own Pentecost, as it were. Therefore, the baptism of the Spirit applied equally to both Jew and Gentile; it was not a Jewish monopoly.

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES A NEW SPIRITUAL SPECIES

There have only been two new species created in human history. Israel was created as a new racial species; and the Church is a new spiritual species.

From the new racial species came the client nations to God in the dispensation of Israel and in the Millennium.

From the new spiritual species, the Church becomes the basis for Gentile client nations to God.

As a result of the baptism of the Spirit, the new spiritual species was created which makes no distinction between Jew and Gentile. There is no racial distinction in Christ.

In Gal 6:15, this is described as "neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, but a new [spiritual] species."

**2 Cor 5:17,** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new [spiritual] species. The old things have lost their power; behold, new things have come."

At the moment of entering the believer into union with Christ (positional sanctification), the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit creates a new spiritual species through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The new spiritual species is designed for unprecedented availability and delegation of divine power.

People like to think of "old things" as whatever were their bad habits which they have given up in the energy of the flesh. However, what you can do in the energy of the flesh cannot make you a new creature in Christ Jesus. Being made a new

creature in Christ Jesus depends on the power of the Holy Spirit.

However, "the old things have lost their power" refers to:

- Pre-salvation influences, which may continue if there is no perception of doctrine and spiritual growth;
- Position in Adam and resultant spiritual death, Rom 5:12, 1 Cor 15:22, "In Adam all die; in Christ shall all be made alive."
- The old sin nature. The old sin nature has lost its power; you can only give it back its power experientially through the function of your own negative volition;
- The "old things" include Genetic, environmental, and volitional handicaps. Whatever were your handicaps before salvation, they have lost their power over you and are no longer the handicaps to keep you from advancing in the spiritual life;
- The function of human power in Satan's cosmic system. By an act of negative volition, you can get under Satan's power. But divine power has superseded cosmic power now.
- People emphasis taking priority over God emphasis. The provision of divine power to the royal family of God makes it possible for relationship with God to take precedence over relationship with people.

"New things have come" refers to:

- The baptism of the Spirit.
- The plan of God.
- The unique equality factors in the protocol plan.
- Our very own portfolio of invisible assets (blessings) prepared for us by the omnipotence of God the Father.
- Our unique royal commissions of royal priesthood and royal ambassadorship. As a royal priest, we represent ourselves before God. As a royal ambassador, we represent God before the world.
- The unique mystery doctrines.

- The indwelling of all three persons of the Trinity.
- The unique availability of divine power.
- This is a dispensation of no prophecy, only historical trends.

**THE APPLICATION OF THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT.**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit demands that the believer think of himself as a person, totally apart from any form of superiority or inferiority. You are not to think of yourself as superior or inferior, or with any form of human prejudice or hypocrisy.

Spiritual living must replace psychological living.

**Gal 3:26-28**, "For you are all the sons [children] of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you, who were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ [union with Christ]. Therefore, there is neither Jew nor Gentile [no racial distinctions in Christ], there is neither slave nor free [no social distinctions in Christ], there is neither male nor female [no sexual distinctions in Christ]; for you are all one in Christ."

The entire world (the unbeliever) is not the family of God. Only those who believe in Christ become the children of God, at which point the baptism of the Holy Spirit makes us in the Church Age royal family of God.

All Church Age believers have been baptized into Christ, losers and winners, spiritual and cosmic believers alike.

"Clothed yourselves with Christ" means we are in union with the head. The head can exist without the body, but the body cannot exist without the head. In other words, the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union, in which our Lord relied upon the omnipotence of God the Father and the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit, has overflowed to the Church Age.

Jesus Christ was sustained in His humanity by the omnipotence of God the Father and the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit. We have been "clothed with Christ" in the sense that, through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we have become a part of that same great power experiment, as the body of the head, Jesus Christ.

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Jew and Greek are two distinct races, and the most famous races of the ancient world. The Jews thought of themselves as superior because of the Mosaic Law. The Greeks thought of themselves as superior because of their great history of thought and cultural genius in Attica and Ionia in the fourth and fifth centuries B.C. The Jews despised the culture of the Greeks. The Greeks viewed the Jew as having no culture, no philosophical background. So there was a great racial antagonism between these two races of the ancient world.

Racial prejudice is evil. Stupid people think in terms of racism. We do not have the right to think this way. Every time you're guilty of racial prejudice, confess it! Even the psychological conclusion that every race has its good and bad ones is at best human viewpoint.

The application of this doctrine is to begin to think of yourself as a person, not as a race. There is no such thing as either a superior or inferior race in Christianity. The royal family of God is the body of Christ, and all races in the world have responded to the Gospel and believed in Jesus Christ. Race is no issue, for every Church Age believer is in union with Christ.

"There is neither slave nor free." At the time this was written in the Roman Empire, there were a tremendous number of slaves. Many of the slaves were among the first Church Age believers. So this refers to social distinctions as they existed at the time of writing.

From the moment you believe in Christ, you are no longer to look at other believers in terms of social distinctions. You are no longer to regard any person as being socially beneath you or above you. Social distinctions are removed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

"There is neither male nor female." This helps to illustrate the principle; for boys will always be boys, and girls will always be girls. The difference between the two is obvious. However, the point here is that the old cultural, psychological distinctions which have been used for years, i.e., that one sex is better than the other, are all gone with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. As a believer, to say you are better than a man/woman means you're arrogant.

This does not change authority principles which still stand as a part of establishment. But authority doesn't connote superiority in the royal family of God.

In your spiritual life, you no longer look at a man/woman through love or hatred, but spiritually you regard them as a member of the royal family of God. This is the only true non-sexual discrimination.

Christians involved in the sexual issues of our day (such as women's liberation) are in psychological living. There's no place for such thinking. It's true there are certain things a man can do and a woman cannot, and visa versa. But as we look at other believers, we must regard them as being just as much royal family of God as we are.

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### **The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

#### **DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTION**

The Holy Spirit indwells the body of the believer at the moment of salvation, 1 Cor 6:19-20, 3:16.

This indwelling provides the divine power to offset the continued presence of the sin nature which also indwells the body after salvation. In addition to the indwelling Spirit, the Filling of the Holy Spirit is required to provide the control and power for Christian living.

The sin nature continues its disruptive tactics and seeks to frustrate the plan of God for the believer from the believer's inner life. When the sin nature controls through sin, the believer is carnal. When good and evil control, there is backsliding (reversion). But when the Holy Spirit controls the soul, that is the filling of the Holy Spirit. In the life of every believer, human ability must be superseded by divine ability.

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The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is also a sign of the royal family status. In the Millennium, all believers will be indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

There was no indwelling of the Holy Spirit until the Church Age. Therefore, we are royal family to complement Christ's battlefield royalty. We receive five additional ministries of the Holy Spirit at salvation: indwelling, sealing, spiritual gifts, filling, and baptism.

While some believers have been indwelt by the Holy Spirit in every dispensation, all believers are indwelt with the Holy Spirit in the Church Age. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in other dispensations was technically the enduement of the Holy Spirit. For example, David said, "Take not Your Spirit from me," Ps 51:11.

It is important to distinguish between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is permanent, and the filling of the Holy Spirit which is temporary depending on the use confession of sin. When we sin we lose the filling of the Holy Spirit, but not the indwelling of the Spirit.

While the Indwelling of Holy Spirit emphasizes the body, the Filling of the Holy Spirit emphasizes the believer's soul. Therefore, the sphere of indwelling is always stated as the body of the believer,

1 Cor 3:16; 6:19-20. Your body is the sacred building of the Church Age. This indwelling makes it impossible for demon possession to occur.

Additional principles related to the Spirit.

We are commanded to "grieve not the Spirit," Eph 4:30.

We are commanded to "quench not the Spirit," 1 Thess 5:19.

We are never commanded to be indwelt by the Spirit (this always exists), but to "be filled with the Spirit," Eph 5:18, or to be "walking in the Spirit," Gal 5:16.

### **THE INNER CONFLICT BETWEEN THE SIN NATURE AND INDWELLING OF HOLY SPIRIT.**

The prior indwelling of the sin nature from physical birth and the indwelling of the Holy

Spirit from the new birth result in a great inner conflict, Gal 5:17.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the principle of victory over the sin nature, while the filling of the Holy Spirit is the function of victory over the sin nature. The Spirit indwells to be available to provide power; the believer makes use of that power by walking in the Spirit.

Therefore, emphasis is placed on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which divorces the believer from the power of the sin nature and marries the believer to a second husband with a new way of life. It further provides a new marriage counselor for the new life in God the Holy Spirit.

The inner conflict between the sin nature and indwelling of the Holy Spirit is portrayed in Rom 8:2-8 and Gal 5:16ff. The sin nature has a head start at birth. It is only overcome by positive attitude to doctrine, especially the doctrine of rebound.

### **THE PROPHECY OF THE INDWELLING OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, JN 7:37-39.**

It was prophesied prior to the beginning of the Church Age by Christ. There are three spiritual uses of water, one of which is mentioned in Jn 7:37-39.

**For salvation**, Isa 55:1; Rev 22:17.

**For doctrine**, Jn 3:5; Eph 5:26.

**For the Holy Spirit**, Jn 7:39.

In Jn 14:16-17 Christ again prophesied the indwelling of Holy Spirit, "will be in you."

### **THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE INDWELLING OF HOLY SPIRIT.**

The primary objective of the indwelling of Holy Spirit is the provision of divine energy to execute the Christian way of life. This includes the attainment of all objectives of God for your life.

Advancement to maturity and glorification of Christ is accomplished through the filling of the Spirit and perception of doctrine.

Perception of doctrine is the ministry of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Jn 14:26. The Holy Spirit provided accuracy of recall through a photographic memory for the writing of Scripture, Jn 16:12-15 cf 1 Cor 2:9-16 and 1 Jn 2:27.

**ANOINTING AND UNCTION ARE SYNONYMS FOR THE INDWELLING OF HOLY SPIRIT,**

1 Jn 2:20, 27.

**Anointing** relates the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to the Church Age believer as a sign of the royal family of God. The indwelling of Holy Spirit is the royal family escutcheon. Because the royal family lives in the Holy of Holies forever, it is important that we are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit demonstrates that we are royalty. Anointing appoints us ambassadors for Christ.

**THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE INDWELLING OF CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is both permanent and functional, while the indwelling of Jesus Christ is the guarantee of escrow blessing in the believer's advance to maturity. The indwelling of Jesus Christ is also in the body and is permanent.

There is definite evidence that the backsliding (reversionistic) believer does not benefit from the indwelling of Jesus Christ, 2 Cor 13:5; Rev 3:20

**The Filling of the Holy Spirit****DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTION.**

Spirituality, or the filling of the Holy Spirit, links salvation to Christian maturity. To move from salvation to maturity requires the filling of the Holy Spirit and the consistent intake of Bible truth.

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit permanently **indwells** the body of the believer. At the same time the new believer receives the **filling** of the Holy Spirit, but this is not permanent! Because the body contains a sin nature, the Holy Spirit indwells the body to be in place to help the believer in conflicts within the soul. The spiritual battlefield is the soul, and victory over the power of sin begins with the filling (control) of the Holy Spirit.

We are **always indwelt** by the Holy Spirit. We are **not always filled** with the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit means God the Holy Spirit controls the soul; and He does not control when

we sin (grieve Him) or perform human good or evil (quench Him). When we confess our sins (1 John 1:9), God forgives the sins and "cleanses" us; and the Holy Spirit is in control again and able to carryout His work..

The following passages of Scripture describe various synonyms for the filling of the Holy Spirit in Scripture. Note that the Christian must be positive to this teaching and decide to follow the Lord's direction if there is to be any benefit derived from the Spirit's control

- Walking in the Spirit, Gal 5:16.
- Walking in the light, 1 John 1:7
- Imitating Christ, Eph 5:1.
- Epistles of Christ ministered by the Spirit, 2 Cor. 3:3.
- Partakers of the divine nature, 2 Pet 1:4.
- Being filled with the Spirit, Eph 5:18.

The believer starts the Christian way of life with the Holy Spirit controlling the soul. We have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit simultaneously at the point of salvation. As soon as we sin, we take over control of our own soul. When we confess sin, the Holy Spirit again controls the soul.

**Prov. 1:22, 23;** "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? And the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you."

Carnality is loss of the filling of the Holy Spirit. Carnality is aggravated, and sins multiply, when a believer continually neglects confess sin. Confession of sin provides recovery and a renewal of the control of the Holy spirit.

Since the filling of the Holy Spirit is functional, it is the means of executing the objectives of the Christian way of life. Anything you do in the energy of the flesh is not the Christian way of life.

**MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Rightly dividing the Word of Truth demands cognizance of the distinction between the pre-salvation, salvation, and post-salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit.

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The pre-salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit are common and efficacious grace.

The salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit are regeneration, baptism of the Holy Spirit, indwelling of the Holy Spirit, sealing, and the bestowment of a spiritual gift.

An additional post-salvation ministry for the Church Age believer is the filling of the Holy Spirit, a special ministry which gives experiential support. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, He teaches us doctrine, provides guidance, provides divine power to execute the plan of God, and is the means of the application of Bible doctrine to your current circumstances.

**COMMANDS RELATED TO SPIRITUALITY.**

**Positive side**

Eph 5:18, "Be filled with the Holy Spirit."

This is the present passive imperative of PLEROO, which means "to be filled". The iterative present is for an action that recurs at successive intervals.

Gal 5:16, "Walk by means of the Spirit."

This is a present tense for an action which is purposed but not taking place.

The positive side clarifies the difference between the means and result in spirituality. In spirituality, the Holy Spirit is the grace provision, Acts 1:8

The means is confession of sin. The result is the filling of the Spirit and the function of the Christian way of life.

**Negative side.**

**Eph 4:30**, "Stop grieving the Holy Spirit, the God by whom you have been sealed for the day of redemption."

"Stop grieving" is the present active imperative of the Greek verb LUREO. Grieving the Spirit is carnality.

This is a command to stop sinning and to stop living without confessing sin. This command emphasizes the fact that spirituality and carnality are mutually exclusive; 1 John 1:6-7; 1 John 2:10-11.

The command to not participate in human good or evil is found in 1 Thess. 5:19, "Do not quench the Spirit."

The positive and negative commands emphasize imitation as the issue in the spiritual life. We either imitate God or people, Eph 5:1.

Believers filled with the Holy Spirit imitate God, Gal 5:22-23.

Carnal believers imitate unbelievers, 1 Cor. 3:3; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 John 1:6.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is related to spirituality, growth, and victory over the sovereignty one's self, over negative volition, 2 Pet 1:2-5.

The application of Bible truth after the filling of the Holy Spirit supplies knowledge for growth and for passing tests.

Spirituality is the modus operandi of the royal priesthood, so it is not subject to the Mosaic Law, Rom 8:2-4.

**Rom 10:4**, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

The Law demands perfect righteousness; believing in Christ provides for us this requirement of the Mosaic Law.

Gal 5:18, "If you are led by the Spirit you are not under the Law."

**THE RESULTS OF THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Christ is magnified in the inner life of the believer, 2 Cor 3:3; Eph 3:16-17; Phil 1:20-21.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is the basis for understanding, believing, and applying Bible truth, John 14:26; 16:12-14; 1 Cor 2:9-16; 1 John 2:27.

The believer is guided by God only while filled with the Holy Spirit, Rom. 8:14-16.

The filling of the Holy spirit is the true function of worship for Christians, John 4:24; Phil 3:3.

The filling of the Holy Spirit provides effectiveness in the believer's production; e.g., in witnessing, Acts 1:8; in prayer, Eph 6:18.

The filling of the Spirit is the glorification of Christ in the human body, John 7:39 cf 16:14; 1 Cor 6:19-20.

The filling of the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to imitate God: Eph 5:1; Gal 4:19 cf 5:22.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT,

1 Kings 19:1-18.

Zech 4:6, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord."

### Confession of Sin

The presence of the Sin Nature in the soul guarantees that the Christian believer will have a problem with active personal sin for the rest of his life on earth. This personal sin causes a deep disturbance in the believer's personal relationship with the Lord. The Holy Spirit is said to be personally "grieved", and His work "quenched" by a Christian's sin.

While you do not lose your salvation each time you sin, your personal growth and effectiveness are stifled as long as there is a rift in your fellowship with God. This rift is healed when you personally confession to God the sin which caused the breach.

Confession of sins is not the basis of salvation. Jesus Christ was judged once for our sins, on the Cross; and He does not need to be judged repeatedly for our sins. The basis of salvation is your personal trust in Christ and His work, rather than confession or any other act which you might perform to try to win the favor of God. ACTS 16:31; JOHN 1:12; EPH. 1:13,14; 2:8,9; 1 PET. 2:24; 2 COR. 5:21.

A Christian is always "in Christ". EPH. 1:3,5,7. So confession of personal sin is extremely important to the personal spiritual relationship that you have with God.

God requires confession of sin as the means of maintaining a close personal walk with Himself. He requires a continual acknowledgement of His rulership; and confession of sin is the means by which you express your yieldedness and surrender to the sovereign will of God on a moment by moment basis. The Lord wants you to have a very useful and happy life, and part of His

plan for providing this sort of life is confession of sin.

### THE LORD ENCOURAGES CONFESSION

A novice believer may not be aware that it's possible to live out of fellowship and that he needs to confess sin. 1 JOHN 1:6; 2:9,10; 2 PET. 1:9. God both commands and pleads with us to judge ourselves, to confess, and then to forget sins. ISA. 43:26; 1 COR. 11:28,31; 1 JOHN 1:9; PHIL. 3:13,14; PROV. 1:23. Any person who reads the Bible quickly becomes aware of God's intentions in this matter.

Some Christians willfully ignore the commands to confess, leading God to employ more persuasive measures to encourage compliance. These methods include:

- Loss of inner peace, PHIL. 4:6,7
- Chastening (discipline), HEB. 12:6
- Pricking of conscience, HEB. 13:18
- Sorrow for sin, PSALM 32.

A few Christians manage to ignore even severe chastening for a long time, leading to God's administering the "sin unto death." The alternative to confession is discipline. HEB. 12:1-5.

### THE MECHANICS OF CONFESSION OF SIN

Confession does not provide you with a license to sin. The idea that "I can sin and confess repeatedly because God will always forgive" is sinful in itself because it indicates that he believer does not actually think the same about his sin that God does. That is, there is no real repentance or confession.

And confession of sin does not remove the buildup of callousness or hardness in the soul of the person who has lived apart from God for a long time. This removal of scar tissue is accomplished through edification, the Biblical system for understanding and applying the Word of God.

Confession of sin does not give you emotional experience, nor is it accompanied by an emotional reaction. God's forgiveness is based on His promise to cleanse, not on how a person feels. And, confession does not always remove the pain or suffering which is the result of the sin itself or

which came as a result of divine discipline. Although the cursing is turned to blessing, the suffering may continue; but the suffering may be endured to the glory of God instead.

Some Christians try to get on God's good side through some means other than the confession which is prescribed by God. Sometimes a person thinks that a demonstration of sorrowfulness is called for, or that weeping will impress God with one's contrition. Others "compensate" for their sin by increasing their religious activities. Some will pray more often and longer and read their Bibles more. Some will try to bribe God with additional tithes and offerings, or with acts of self-denial, sacrifice, or service. Some will present themselves in re-dedication services and attend church functions more often. But these things cannot be substituted for confession of sin. God is interested only in a person's mental attitude toward the sin.

The word "confession" in the New Testament is taken from the Greek word ὁμολογεῖν (homologeō), meaning "to cite", "to name", "to classify in the same manner", "to agree with", "to say the same thing as". Confession acknowledges God's rulership in the matter and agrees with His judgment.

This is a method of dealing with the disharmony caused by sins which causes no merit to accrue to the person who confesses. It is strictly a Grace provision in which God makes a promise and carries out the function of cleansing. The Christian must (1) confess the sin, 1 John 1:9; (2) forget the sin, Phil. 3:13,14; and (3) isolate the sin, Heb. 12:15.

Since prayer is made only to God the Father (Mark. 2:7), confession is made only to God the Father. Upon the condition of confession, forgiveness is guaranteed and cleansing from all unrighteousness is administered (1 John 1:9). The word "cleanse" refers to the removal of the guilt of the sin. Therefore, the cleansed individual is removed from the condition of discipline, chastening is no longer being administered, and

the hindrances to the ministry of the Holy Spirit are removed.

There are several synonyms in the Bible for the word "confess", as follows":

- To "yield" means to confess. ROM. 6:13.
- Putting off the old man", is tantamount to confession. EPH. 5:14.
- Judging oneself is confession, or leads to it. 1 COR. 11:31.
- Presenting one's body is analogous to confession. ROM. 12:1.

### PRINCIPLES DERIVED FROM THE DOCTRINE OF CONFESSION

Walking closer to God is, in reality, an activity in which you are more consistent in your relationship with the Lord, more consistent in your confession of sin. While confession does not, in itself, cause one to grow in Christ, there can be no growth in the Spirit as long as one is out of fellowship because of unconfessed sin. Therefore, confession sets the stage for progress in the Christian life. The ministry of the Holy Spirit depends on uninterrupted fellowship. So Christian growth depends on the unhindered work of the Holy Spirit.

Confession takes the believer out of the sphere where he is producing callous and scar tissue on his soul, and it puts him back in the sphere of the Holy Spirit's control. You can thus produce "gold, silver, and precious stones" rather than "wood, hay, and stubble".

As you learn more about the true doctrine of confession, you will increase normally in your discernment about your own status of fellowship. You will know whether you are controlled by the Holy Spirit; and you will know what to do about it when you are not. You will also learn to recognize carnality in others; but you will be more tolerant of other people because you realize better how your own standing depends entirely on the Grace of God.

**QUIZ INSTRUCTIONS**

The following questions relate to your study of this lesson.

To answer a question, type your response in the space provided after the word "Answer:". A question may be True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer type.

The last question requires you to write one or two paragraphs in "essay" form. Use the space provided; it will expand to accommodate your response.

You have choices about sending the quiz back to Grace Notes.

- If you received an email file containing the quiz, you can use the REPLY feature of your e-mail application to open the quiz. Enter your answers in the reply message. Then SEND the message to Grace Notes.
- You can enter your answers on these pages, then send the whole file back to Grace Notes as a file attachment. As an alternative,
- After you answer the questions here, copy and paste the whole list of questions into a new MS Word document; then, send the new file to Grace Notes as an attachment. The new file will, of course, be much smaller than this main file.
- Finally, you can print the Quiz pages on your printer and send your response back to Grace Notes in the regular mail. If you do this, send the mail to:

**Grace Notes**

**% Warren Doud**

**1705 Aggie Lane**

**Austin, Texas 78757 USA**

Whichever transmission method you use, when Grace Notes receives your completed Quiz, the next lesson will be sent to you, by the same means you received this one. EXCEPT: when you have sent in the FINAL QUIZ, we will send your certificate to you, by regular mail.

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<b>The Acts of the Apostles</b>	Page <b>19</b>
<b>Section I, Lesson 2</b>	a GraceNotes study

### **QUIZ on Acts I - Lesson 2**

The following questions relate to your study of this ACTS Lesson . Some of the questions have to do with the ACTS passage itself. There are also questions on the topical studies that accompany this Lesson.

This Quiz may have Multiple Choice, True/False, Fill-in-the-Blank, and Short Answer questions. Type your responses after the word "Answer:" following each question.

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit involves a water baptism. [True/False]

Answer:

2. What is the “one body” into which we are all baptized by the Holy Spirit?

Answer:

3. The baptism of the Holy Spirit did not occur in Old Testament times. [True/False]

Answer:

4. It is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which makes a person into a new creature. [True/False]

Answer:

5. Where were the disciples standing when Jesus was taken up into heaven?

Answer:

6. Jesus told the disciples that the Kingdom of God would be established in their lifetimes. [True/False]

Answer:

7. What was the prerequisite to the disciples receiving the power to minister?

Answer:

8. The Baptism of John was a Real (versus Ritual) baptism. [True/False]

Answer:

9. In the Baptism of John, of what was the water symbolic?

Answer:

10. What Scripture verse says, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” ?

Answer:

End of Quiz

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